RP 5 dribbles its way to perdition, loses to Kazakhs

Story in Sports, PAGE A22

RP embassies told to take precautions

By Norman Bordadora

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday condemned the bomb attacks that damaged the Philippine consulate in Indonesia and caused massive casualties on the resort island of Bali.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople ordered Philippine embassies worldwide to take

RP EMBASSIES/ A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

20 MILF rebels killed in 'preemptive' attack

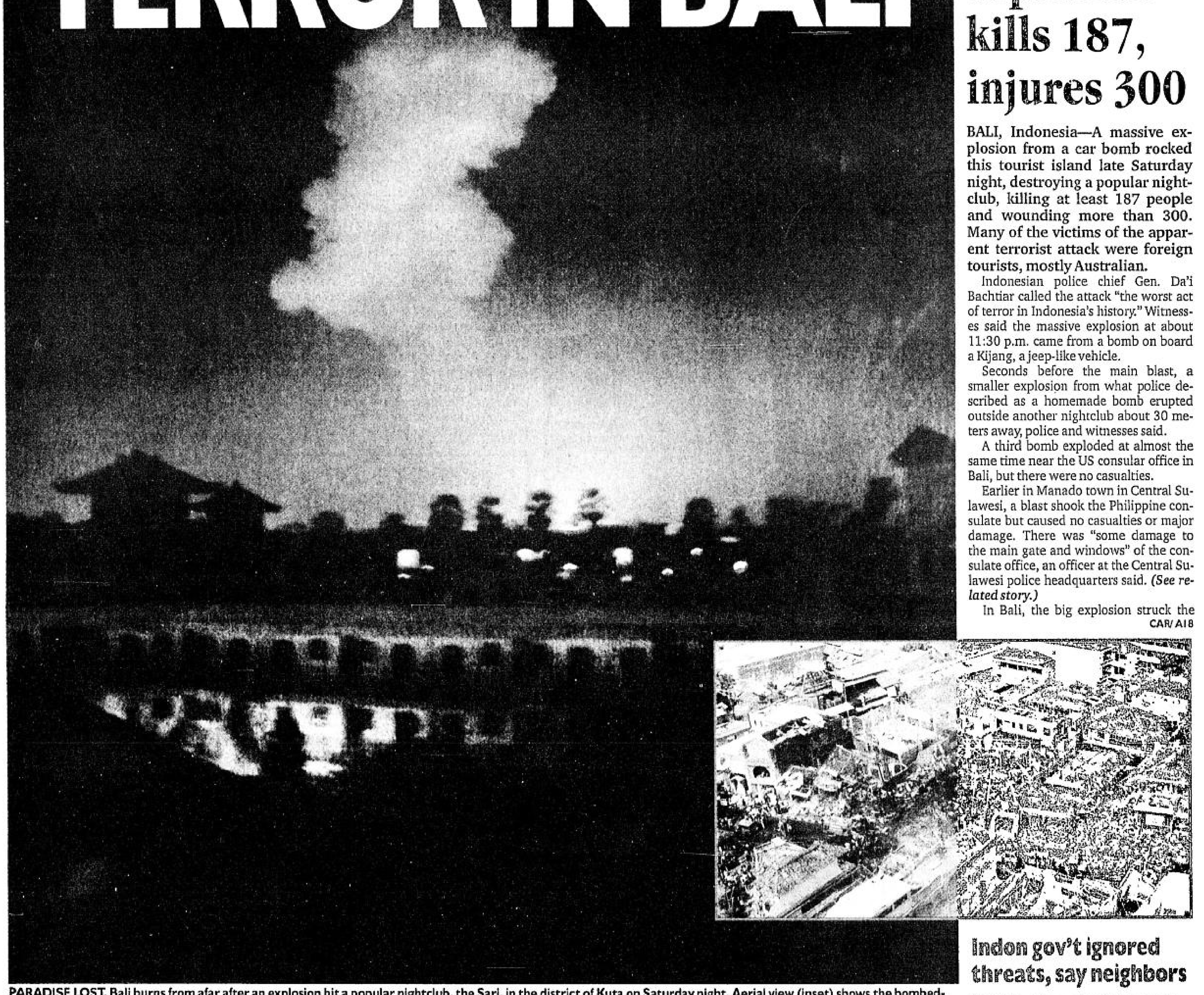
AT LEAST 20 rebels were killed in a military "preemptive" assault after some 600 members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) were monitored massing in a camp near the town of Sultan Gumander in Lanao del Sur, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Benjamin Defensor said yesterday.

But MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said at least 30 soldiers and militiamen

20 MILF/ A6

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Monday, October 14, 2002 ★ 86 pages / 5 sections / vol. 17 / no. 308 P15
website: www.inq7.net

TERROR IN BALI



PARADISE LOST. Bali burns from afar after an explosion hit a popular nightclub, the Sari, in the district of Kuta on Saturday night. Aerial view (inset) shows the bombed-out site Sunday morning. Another blast earlier rocked the Philippine consulate in Manado City, but no casualties were reported. AFP/REUTERS

Car bomb explosion kills 187, injures 300

BALI, Indonesia—A massive explosion from a car bomb rocked this tourist island late Saturday night, destroying a popular nightclub, killing at least 187 people and wounding more than 300. Many of the victims of the apparent terrorist attack were foreign tourists, mostly Australian.

Indonesian police chief Gen. Da'i Bachtiar called the attack "the worst act of terror in Indonesia's history." Witnesses said the massive explosion at about 11:30 p.m. came from a bomb on board a Kijang, a jeep-like vehicle.

Seconds before the main blast, a smaller explosion from what police described as a homemade bomb erupted outside another nightclub about 30 meters away, police and witnesses said.

A third bomb exploded at almost the same time near the US consular office in Bali, but there were no casualties.

Earlier in Manado town in Central Sulawesi, a blast shook the Philippine consulate but caused no casualties or major damage. There was "some damage to the main gate and windows" of the consulate office, an officer at the Central Sulawesi police headquarters said. *(See related story.)*

In Bali, the big explosion struck the

CAR/ A18

Suddenly, resort island becomes raging inferno

BALI, Indonesia—One moment, it was a typical Saturday night on Kuta Beach, this resort island's famous tourist strip. Throbbing bars, packed dance floors—and throngs of sunburnt tourists out on the street, many in shorts, T-shirts and sandals.

The next moment, it was a raging inferno. Charred and limbless bodies strewn across the road. Terrified foreign tourists, some with clothes on fire and drenched in blood, stumbling through the carnage.

"I was sitting at a table about 100 meters away when there was a mild explosion followed three or four seconds later by a very powerful one. I hurled myself to the ground," said Karim Ansel, 27, from Paris.

"Everybody was shouting and screaming, there was dust all over the place. Somebody asked me if an airplane had fallen on top of us," said a shocked Ansel.

"As I came out I saw awful, awful things. One person was absolutely covered in blood, another woman was running with her clothes burned onto her body.

"A man was dressed only in his underpants and covered in blood, with his shoes in his hands. Other people were just completely traumatized."

Saturday's explosion completely destroyed two nightclubs and many sur-

SUDDENLY/ A18

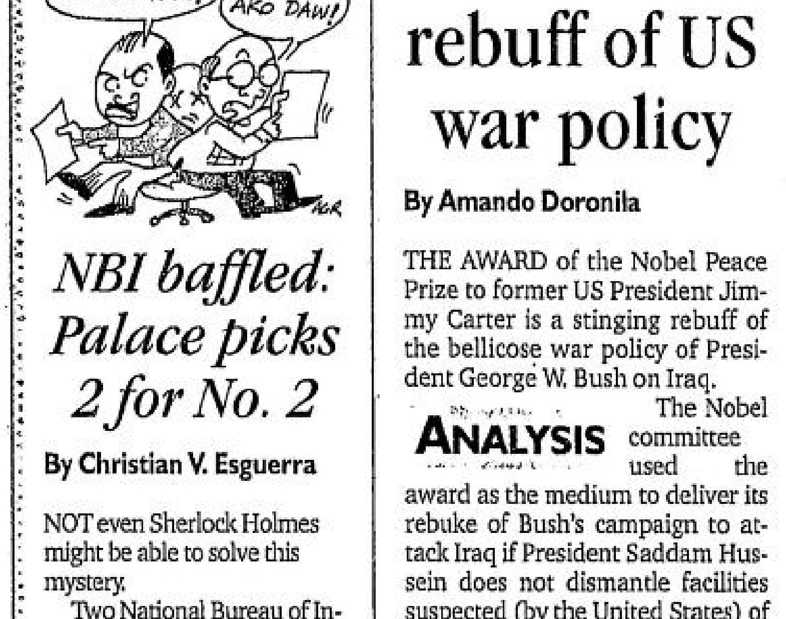
Indon gov't ignored threats, say neighbors

JAKARTA—The car bombing that laid waste to a nightclub and killed nearly 200 people on the island of Bali follows months of warnings and pleadings for Indonesia to pick up the pace to prevent terror attacks.

Indonesia's neighbors and terrorism experts have frequently voiced exasperation that in a region where al-Qaida is known to be active—and Indonesians are suspected of being ringleaders of affiliated networks—the government in Jakarta had been slow to react.

An Indonesian politician added his

INDON/ A19



AKO DYAN!
HINDE! AKO DAW!
AGR

NBI baffled: Palace picks 2 for No. 2

By Christian V. Esguerra

NOT even Sherlock Holmes might be able to solve this mystery.

Two National Bureau of Investigation officials were separately appointed by Malacañang to the agency's second

NBI/ A19

Nobel Prize rebuff of US war policy

By Amando Doronila

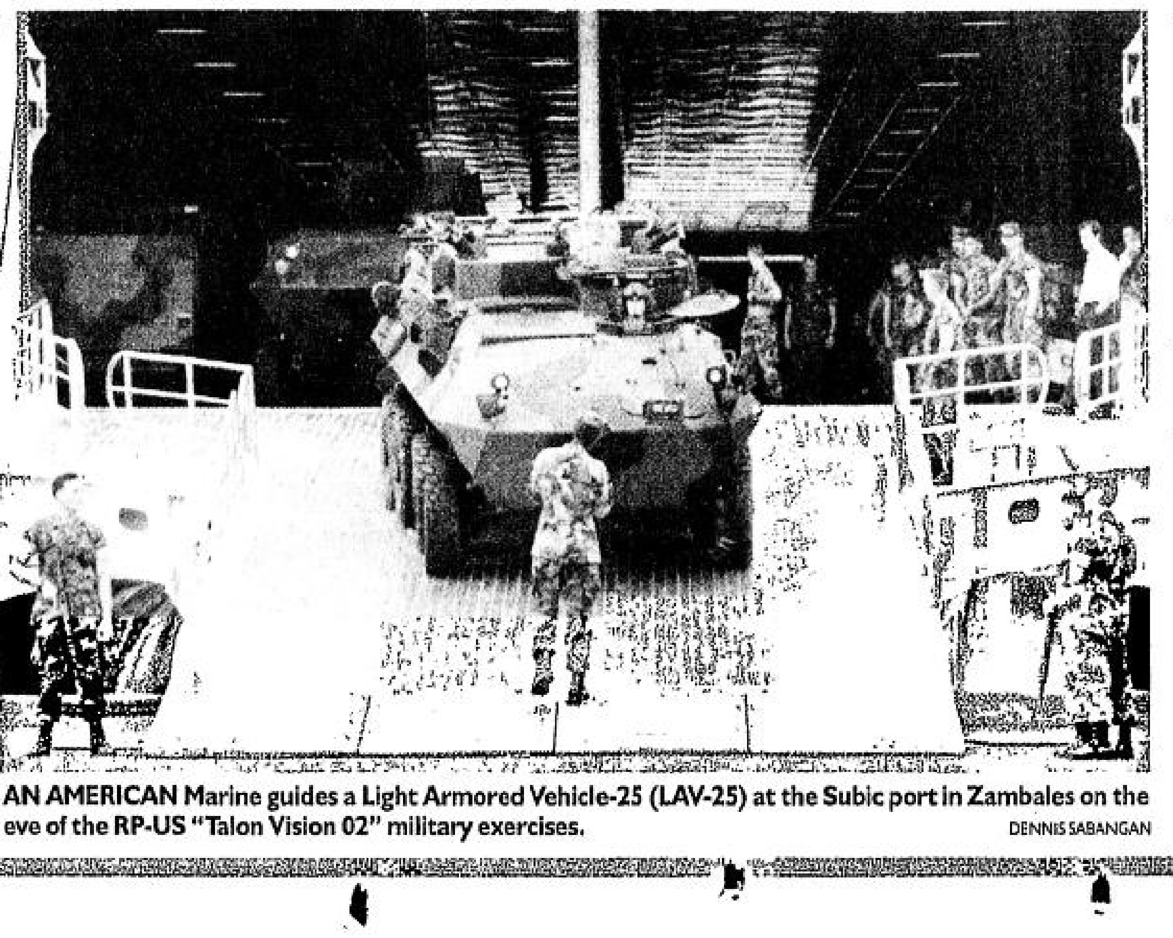
THE AWARD of the Nobel Peace Prize to former US President Jimmy Carter is a stinging rebuff of the bellicose war policy of President George W. Bush on Iraq.

ANALYSIS

The Nobel committee used the award as the medium to deliver its rebuke of Bush's campaign to attack Iraq if President Saddam Hussein does not dismantle facilities suspected (by the United States) of producing or storing nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

The committee cited Carter for

NOBEL/ A18



AN AMERICAN Marine guides a Light Armored Vehicle-25 (LAV-25) at the Subic port in Zambales on the eve of the RP-US "Talon Vision 02" military exercises. DENNIS SABANGAN

US troops arrive for war games

By Allan Macatuno
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE—Amid renewed attacks by Moro and communist guerrilla groups in the country, some 600 US Marines from Okinawa, Japan, arrived in this former US naval base yesterday on an Australian commercial ship.

As soon as the "Westpac Express Austrial.Com" docked at 8:15 a.m. here, the American soldiers boarded vehicles for Clark in Pampanga, one of the sites of the exercise.

They will participate in "Talon

US/ A19

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/14/02

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FRONTPAGE

US hikes visa fee from $65 to $100

By Norman Bordadora

THE UNITED States Embassy is scheduled to hike the cost of applying for a non-immigrant US visa from the current $65 to $100, starting on Nov. 1.

Embassy officials said the price increase, which will be implemented worldwide, is meant to cover the cost of more stringent security screening procedures for prospective visitors to America.

They were referring to measures implemented after Sept. 11, 2001, in line with the US campaign against international terrorism.

The embassy is preparing a formal announcement for Filipino visa applicants after the US Department of State announced the $35 increase last week.

In a statement, the department said it was "facing a critical revenue shortfall because the current $65 fee simply does not recover the full cost of services."

"Added security procedures and restrictions on the role of support staff, and further increases in management oversight, have added to the cost of non-immigrant visa processing," the department said.

The machine-readable visas, which were first introduced in 1994, are the intensified security program's primary source of revenue.

"In consultation with the White House's Office of Management and Budget, the department determined that the shortfall should be met by an increase in the (visa) fee rather than by appropriation of US tax revenues," the statement further said.

The $100 fee does not include expenses incurred in making an interview appointment (time and date sometimes three months away) via a designated telephone line.

STOP BUSH!
NO TO US WAR VS. IRAQ!

WHILE the US hikes its visa fee, demonstrators, including children, continue to protest American military moves against Iraq, in front of the US Embassy in Manila yesterday.
ERIK ARAZAS

Bush to personally brief GMA on Iraq

By Carlito Pablo

UNITED States President George W. Bush himself will brief President Macapagal-Arroyo on the situation in Iraq and what Washington plans to do, when Bush meets with world leaders during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Mexico later this month, according to National Security Adviser Roilo Golez.

In a teleconference, Golez said that based on his consultations with US officials, "they do not expect any surprises" between now and the APEC summit to be held on Oct. 27 and 28.

He said Bush would be meeting with his counterparts from the Asia-Pacific region, particularly the leaders of China, the Philippines, Korea, Malaysia and others.

"I'm sure President Bush will use the opportunity to formally or informally brief the Pacific leaders on what exactly is happening," Golez said.

The President last week announced a "re-calibrated foreign policy" amid threats of a possible US attack on Iraq, articulating a new desire to reshape the Philippines' moral and strategic alliance with the US in the face of the country's equally important relationship with Muslim-led countries.

She had earlier pledged political, security and humanitarian support for the US campaign against Iraq, which Washington has accused of maintaining weapons of mass destruction.

Ms Macapagal has called a meeting today of the National Security Council (NSC) to assess the country's position in light of the US Congress resolution authorizing Bush to use force against Iraq.

Golez said that the NSC will also be discussing the "prospects in the forthcoming UN Security Council debate" on the US call for a forceful move to compel Iraq to dismantle its alleged weapons of mass destruction.

The NSC will also be tackling the situation of Filipino workers in the Middle East in case of a US attack on Iraq, Golez added.

Golez said that US defense and diplomatic officials had informed him that the passage of a congressional resolution authorizing Bush to use force against Iraq was "part of their timetable."

"Now they're focusing on the UN Security Council," he said. But he reiterated his earlier belief that hostilities were unlikely to break out this month or in November, which is the month of Ramadan, the most holy season for all Muslims, "unless there is a very extreme provocation coming from Iraq."

In a separate teleconference, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye declined to say whether the Philippines would support a unilateral US action against Iraq, that is, an attack that is not sanctioned by the UN.

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2 suspected Abus bolt Taguig jail

By Christian V. Esguerra

TWO SUSPECTED members of the Abu Sayyaf terror group managed to escape from the heavily guarded Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig, Metro Manila, on Saturday.

SJO2 Reyland Tabios, officer on case, identified the escapees as Anni Sailani, 30, and his brother Iping, 24.

Tabios said the two managed to walk out of the Metro Manila Rehabilitation Center at the camp by disguising themselves as Muslim women.

The Sailani brothers were facing charges of kidnapping with serious illegal detention, he added.

Three women visited the suspects at their cell at around 11 a.m. Saturday, investigation showed. It was believed they brought with them the women's clothes which the suspects used to escape.

About 45 minutes after their visitors left, the Sailani brothers—garbed in the women's clothing with only the upper part of their faces showing—casually walked out of their cells without anybody noticing, Tabios said.

"It was sheer stupidity on the part of the jail guards," the investigator told the INQUIRER.

Jail warden Supt. Romeo Vio has been relieved from his post following the escape.

The incident came more than a week after alleged drug lord Henry Tan bolted out of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency compound at Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Last July, suspected Pentagon kidnap gang leader Faisal Marohombsar and two other alleged kidnappers escaped from the defunct National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force compound, also located at Camp Crame.

Marohombsar was later killed in a police operation in Cavite, while Tan remains at large.

When all else fails, OFWs turn to prayer

By Blanche S. Rivera

WHEN all else fails for overseas Filipino workers, a "task force" of officials and employees of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, the agency that processes their employment papers, promises to pray for them.

"Please pray for the protection of my wife, who is working in Saudi."

"Please pray that I pass the seafarer's exam."

"Please pray for my promotion."

These are just samples of petitions dropped in prayer boxes recently installed for OFWs and their families on every floor of the POEA building in Pasig City. Many of the boxes are in the lobby where applicants or returning OFWs queue for their papers.

POEA Administrator Rosalinda Baldoz leads the prayer brigade formed "amid precarious conditions abroad."

"We may be of different (religious) denominations here," Baldoz said, "but when Filipinos go abroad, they are known as coming from a Christian nation. We should live up to that."

Baldoz said OFWs—around seven million in 193 countries—need a lot of support, and "not just from their families."

POEA records show that 2,600 Filipinos leave every day to work abroad. At least 705,000 have left this year, as of last month.

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PNCC privatization hits ₱2.1-B snag

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE GOVERNMENT may be forced to shelve the privatization of the ailing Philippine National Construction Corp., losing potential revenues from the sale, because the PNCC's assets and bank deposits have all been frozen and attached to a P2.1 billion debt that state lawyers believe the PNCC has no legal obligation to pay.

This debacle came about after the PNCC board, in the last few months of the Estrada administration, passed two resolutions in October and November 2000 acknowledging an obligation to Japan's Marubeni Corp. arising from loans dating back to the Marcos regime.

Using those two board resolutions, a representative of Marubeni filed a claim in the Mandaluyong regional trial court on Jan. 15, 2001 demanding payment for the P2.1 billion loan, exclusive of interest and penalties.

On Jan. 23, 2001, the court issued a writ of attachment in favor of Marubeni, represented by Elizabeth Andres, thus effectively freezing a substantial part of PNCC's assets, including all its bank accounts and major real estate properties.

The PNCC bank accounts garnished by the Mandaluyong sheriff are in eight branches of the Philippine National Bank, including in the main branch, totalling P15.2 million. The biggest account is in the Makati Ave. branch which has P14.1 million in deposits.

Levies were also made on 23 PNCC landholdings in the cities of Pasay, Paranaque, Antipolo, Tagaytay, the towns of Calamba in Laguna, and Sta. Rita and Meycauayan in Bulacan.

"The PNCC is now unable to withdraw from its bank accounts and liquidate its fixed assets. Worse, its privatization has been held hostage by those infamous resolutions," a source at the state firm said.

The INQUIRER sources at the PNCC said it was Renato Valdecantos himself, then PNCC chairman and concurrent chair of the Asset Privatization Trust, who endorsed the resolutions to the PNCC board to acknowledge the obligation to Marubeni.

The sources said the government's plan to sell the PNCC has been prejudiced as investors would be discouraged to buy an asset with a recognized indebtedness and with properties subject to writs of attachment and garnishment.

Valdecantos remains on the PNCC board despite the change of administration as he was able to slide down to the post of director just before Estrada's ouster.

Solons don't like Winnie's advice

TWO opposition congressmen branded yesterday as "unfair" economist Solita "Mareng Winnie" Monsod's advice to the youth to work against the candidacy of movie star Fernando Poe Jr. for president in 2004.

Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen and Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico said Monsod's advice was uncalled for given that Poe, who is being pushed to run for president, had not declared his intention to do so.

Besides, "it's too early to campaign," Dilangalen said.

In a speech the other day in the first INQUIRER Seminar Series on "Generation Why," Monsod said the youth could effect change in politics and bring about good governance by convincing others not to vote for Poe for president.

She also advised the youth to criticize the wrong-doings of government officials to the media and to make their views known in barangay assemblies.

Dilangalen, newly appointed national president of the opposition Puwersa ng Masang Pilipino party, bewailed the attack on Poe.

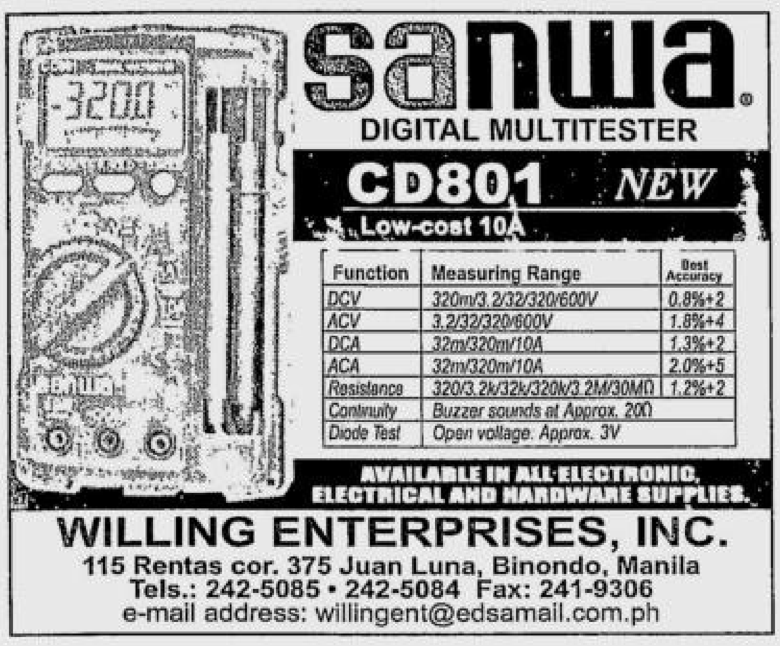
"This is a free society and the youth should be given several options," he said.

The PMP is also the party of ousted President Joseph Estrada, who is Poe's best friend in the movie industry.

Many people believe Estrada is behind the attempt to recruit Poe, since a Poe presidency might be expected to look kindly on Estrada in case he is convicted of plunder and other crimes allegedly committed during his own presidency.

In a phone interview, Dilangalen said the opposition members of the House had not yet even met with Poe, who is in the Ilocos region making a film.

Suplico, on the other hand, said that in a democracy anyone could aspire to become president.*Christine O. Avendaño*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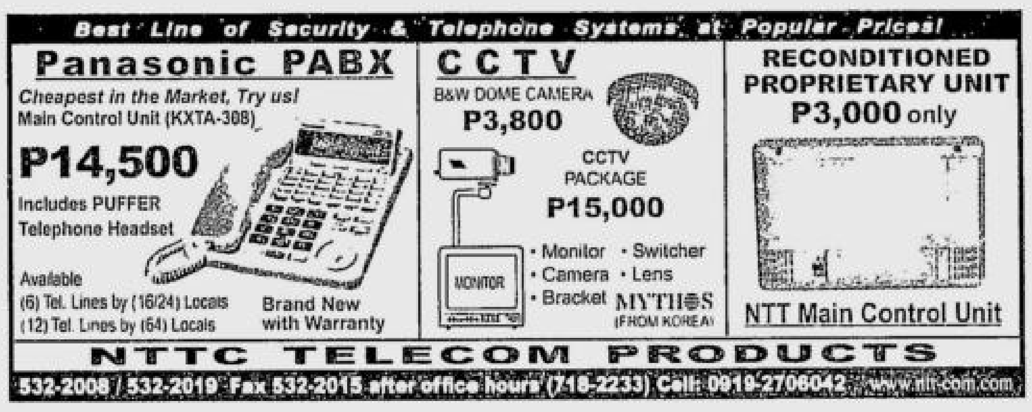
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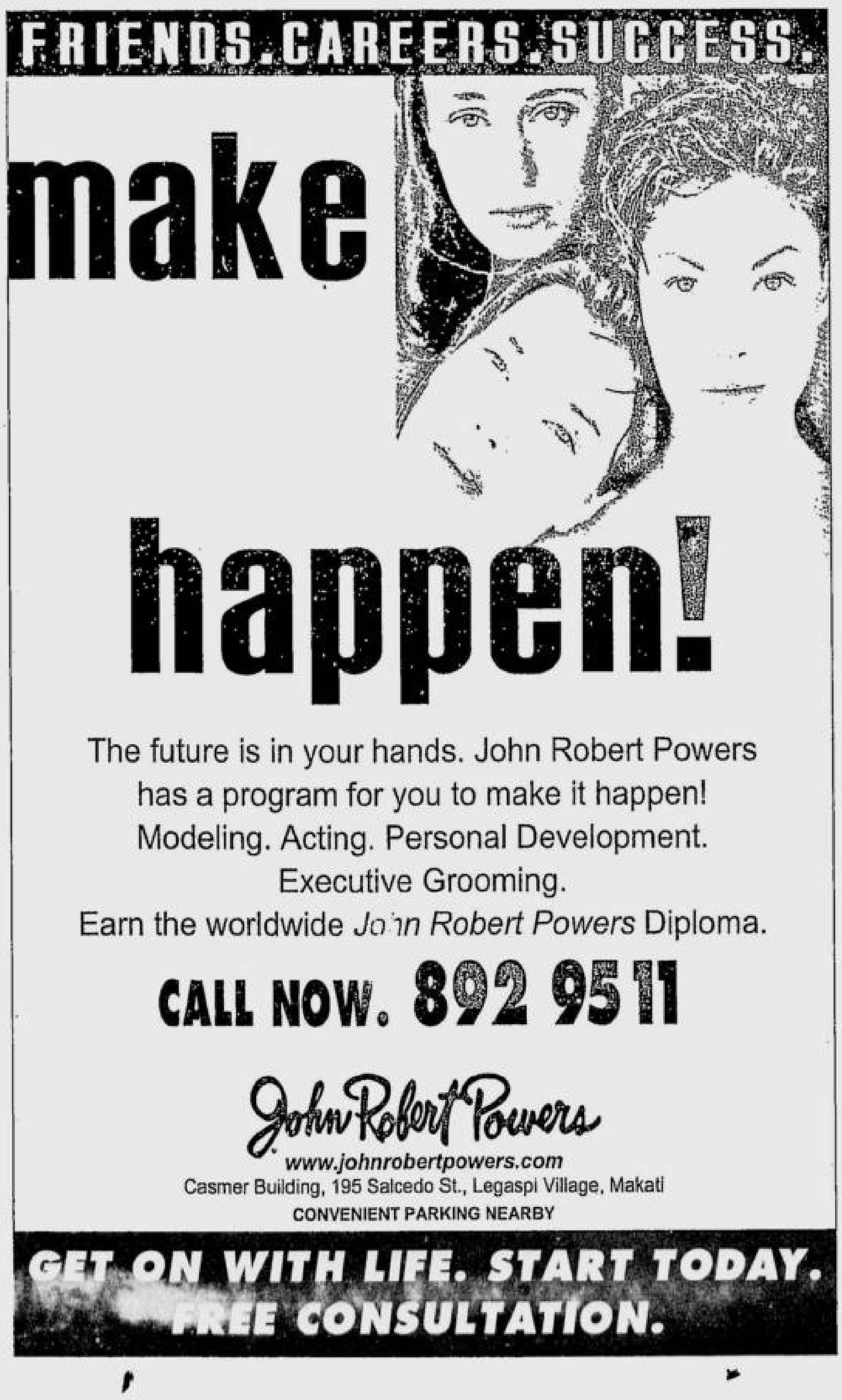
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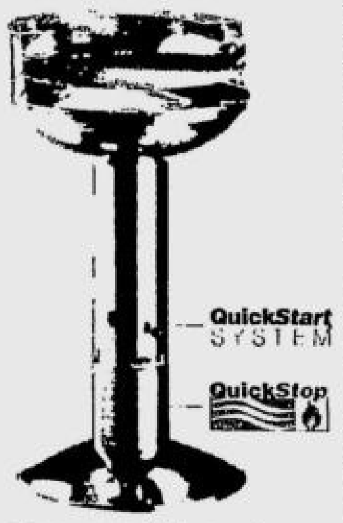

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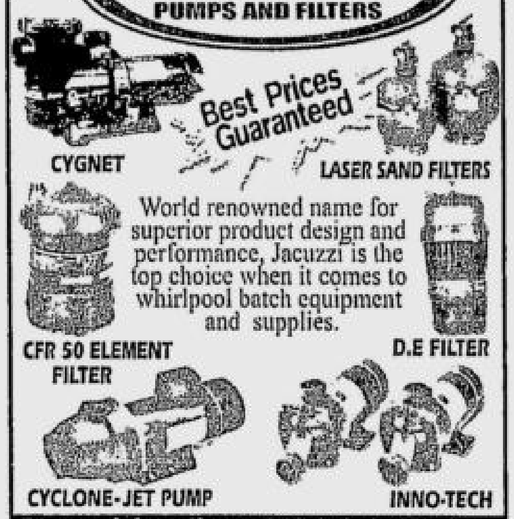

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20 MILF rebels killed in 'preemptive' attack

From page A1

were killed in an ambush by heavily armed men operating in Nunungan, Lanao del Norte.

Kabalu said the ambush was blamed on the MILF.

Intelligence reports said Isnilon Hapilon, a leader of the Abu Sayyaf bandit group, was also spotted in the area controlled by the MILF, according to Defensor. The Abu Sayyaf has been linked by the United States to the al-Qaida terrorist network.

The assault came in the wake of the killing of 11 Marines in an encounter with the Abu Sayyaf in Patikul, Sulu, and the bombings in Bali, Indonesia, that killed and wounded hundreds of people. *(See banner story on Page A1.)*

Malacañang yesterday condemned the Bali blasts as an "act of terrorism" and said it was on a heightened security alert to prevent a spillover of violence into its territory.

"We have to consider all possibilities here," National Security Adviser Roilo Golez told reporters. "The (police) have been instructed to make sure that we are on heightened alert . . . to protect possible targets of these acts of terrorism in case this is regional and not local to Indonesia."

Golez noted that in 2000, both Indonesia and the Philippines were hit by terrorist bombings that were largely blamed on Islamic extremist groups. He was referring to the Aug. 1, 2000 bombing in Jakarta, Indonesia that wounded Philippine Ambassador Leonides Caday and the Dec. 30, 2000 bombings in Metro Manila, which killed 17 people.

Indonesia is considered a weak link in the US-led war on terror in Southeast Asia, with critics saying the government is reluctant to crack down on radical Muslim groups for fear of upsetting the moderate mainstream. *(See related story on Page A1.)*

Police said they had detained an Indonesian for questioning about possible links to extremist groups. The Indonesian was roaming around the gates of the airport in Zamboanga City on Thursday when he was arrested.

As of yesterday, 20 rebels had been killed in the "first wave of ground assault," Defensor said. The "preemptive assault" was carried out by elements of the 401st Army Brigade supported by artillery and air force attacks.

"I will destroy any armed group who will undermine government efforts to bring peace and development in Mindanao," Defensor said.

MILF actions in establishing unauthorized camps and carrying out training "constitute a violation of the peace agreement," he said.

The MILF has been waging a rebellion for the establishment of an Islamic state in Mindanao since 1978. The group signed a ceasefire agreement with the government last year, leading to peace negotiations.

However, skirmishes have persisted, with the military and the MILF often accusing each other of provoking hostilities.

The MILF has also been linked to al-Qaida. Citing US and Asian intelligence sources, CNN reported on Sept. 17 that the MILF had reopened two training camps in Mindanao and at least one training camp in Indonesia. Different al-Qaida operatives now in US custody, including Omar al-Faruq, have verified the information. Al-Faruq reportedly spent three years in Camp Abubakar, the MILF's stronghold in Maguindanao before it fell to government forces in 2000, to set up the first al-Qaida training in 1995.

In April, a confessed terrorist, Indonesian Fathur al-Ghozi, who was sentenced to 12 years in prison for illegal possession of explosives, also had admitted to training in Camp Abubakar. Al-Ghozi had told investigators of a plan to bomb Western targets as part of a *jihad* (holy war) intended to establish an independent Islamic state in Southeast Asia. He said he was behind the Dec. 30, 2000 bombings in Metro Manila. *Reports from AFP, Reuters and Carlito Pablo in Manila and Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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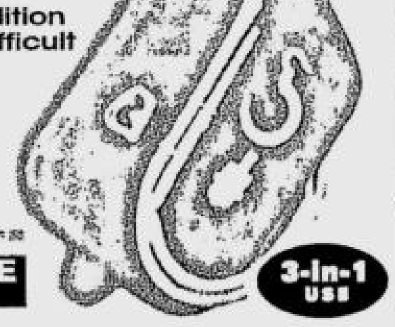

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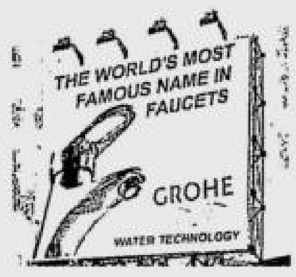

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First, it is doubtful that the three officials, who are big contractors in Albay, really represent the sentiments of their respective member-contractors, if these associations really have members. We have talked to several contractors in Albay and they disclaimed having known or consented to the advertisement.

Second, we doubt the veracity of their claims. It is not the DPWH officials who have raided the coffers of the government but the politicians that dictate on them.

It was unfair for the advertisers to have made a very sweeping generalization against DPWH V officials and personnel. If there are really certain officials and personnel who are engaged in anomalous transactions, why did they not specifically mention them and come with specifics and evidences instead of dragging the integrity of the entire bureaucratic family of DPWH V. It was really unfair for the others who work hard and honestly as public servants. Why not, instead, come out with evidences and charge these alleged corrupt and anomalous officials in the proper venue so that truth and justice would come out?

The advertisers mentioned about "inside" contractors who either have their own construction companies managed by dummies or those who use the business licenses of other contractors in cornering and implementing government construction projects. If this is really true and they know that this system has been going on for quite a time, why expose it only now? They have been contractors for decades now. Is it because these complaining contractors, who are big ones, have been part of the rotten system all along? Why only now? Is it because they are no longer under the graces of politicians who are now in a position to give out projects to their favored contractors? Why do they not expose the politicians who dip their hands into DPWH projects instead of the lowly DPWH V employees who are just at the mercy of these politicians? While contractors are raking in millions, the lowly paid DPWH engineers are watching with their mouth wide open. Let us not be pretentious. They, too, want to eat hotdogs and hamburgers. They, too, would not want their children to go hungry and be miserable because of financial difficulties.

To stop the agony, woes and egotism of these very rich three or four contractors, maybe we have to abolish the DPWH, the politicians and the contractors' associations and let the mob and tyrant rule the society. It is really easy to accuse somebody, especially if one's own selfish interest is at stake. But if one points a finger at somebody, the other three fingers are pointing at him. And let one who has not sinned cast the first stone.

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Advt.

Phone card firms biggest cheats–BIR

By Clarissa S. Batino

DISTRIBUTORS of pre-paid cards for cellular phones comprised the bulk of the 616 companies found to have understated their income and value-added tax (VAT) payments, the Bureau of Internal Revenue said.

BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno said the bureau had found huge discrepancies in the sales declarations made by the pre-paid card sources and the distributors of pre-paid cards for mobile phone, internet and even landline access.

The bulk of the understatement involved pre-paid cellular phone cards, Parayno said.

But the bureau still has to check whether there was also under-declaration on the part of the phone firms and internet companies, he said.

The BIR has initially used the sales declaration of the phone and internet firms to check whether the distributors reflected the appropriate sales, Parayno said.

"Many were found understating their sales and this is the reason why the number of the firms caught substantially increased. We have already sent demand letters to those we caught," said Parayno.

The finance department has estimated that telephone companies or their distributors deprive the government of as much as P6 billion in VAT payments annually through leaks in pre-paid card tax collections.

Rep. Jules Ledesma, chair of the House ways and means committee, had suggested the phone companies be made to pay the VAT upon issuance of the pre-paid cards to the distributors and not after the cards are sold.

A finance official said it was Ledesma who suggested the pre-paid cards could be the source of tax leakages as the telephone and internet companies only paid the VAT on the cards once these were reported sold by the distributor.

As a result, the pre-paid card providers, through a practice called the float where temporary earnings are invested in short-term instruments, earn interest on the money that should be remitted early on to the government.

Because of the faulty setup, the finance official said pre-paid card sales reported by these companies could be erroneous and, thus, their VAT payment declarations irregular.

The 616 companies caught so far were found to have understated their revenues by as much as P12.6 billion. The government could collect close to 10 percent of the understated amount, Parayno said.

Study law, cops urged

SEN. RENATO Cayetano has urged the Philippine National Police to encourage its members to take up law.

"We should train more officers to become lawyers since this would help professionalize the force," said Cayetano, a lawyer, in a statement.

Cayetano cited a recent Dangerous Drugs Board finding that 61 percent of the country's anti-narcotics officers had failed a "drug knowledge test."

"We believe the problem of officers lacking basic legal training to effectively do their jobs is not limited to anti-narcotics," Cayetano said.

He noted that the failure of many officers to comply strictly with the Rules on Criminal Procedure had led to the dismissal of numerous criminal cases.

The Rules on Criminal Procedure sets the guidelines for the conduct of lawful and valid arrests and seizures, among other things.

Cayetano said that once the PNP draws up a scholarship program for officers wishing to take up law, "we are sure many of our colleagues in Congress will help provide the necessary budgetary support." *Rocky Nazareno*

Destiny seeks TRO vs Star

IN A bid to keep five top-rating channels on its menu, Destiny Cable Inc. is seeking a 20-day temporary restraining order on the planned pullout tomorrow by the program provider Star Group Ltd.

"They can't (just) do that," Destiny's legal counsel Troy Luna said in a telephone interview yesterday. "Under Philippine laws, a provider (cannot) choose which company it will (service). As long as a cable operator complies with set rules and pays programming fees, Star has to take it in.

Otherwise, Luna said, that would be a monopoly, or "exercising some form of control over the industry."

Destiny is considered the second largest cable TV operator in the country, after dominant players SkyCable and Home Cable merged last year as Beyond Cable Holdings Inc.

Despite this reputable market standing, the Star Group announced on Oct. 3 that it was not renewing its contract with Destiny for five top-rating channels—ESPN, Star Sports, Star World, Star Movies and National Geographic.

Destiny's president and chief executive officer David Lim said Star did not cite any reason for the impending pullout, except for the natural expiration of their contract today. *Abigail L. Ho*

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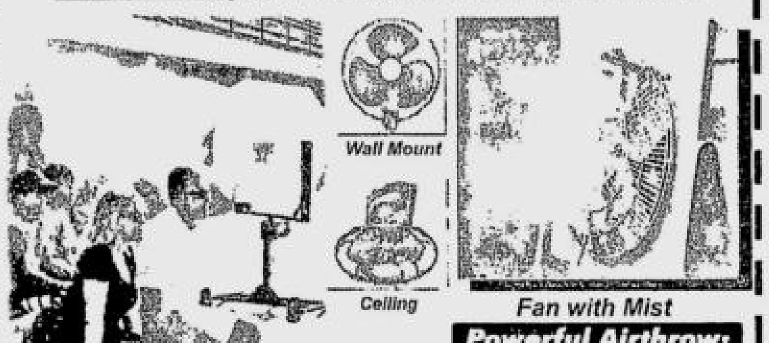

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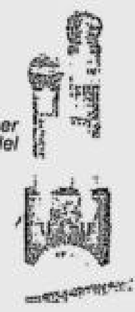

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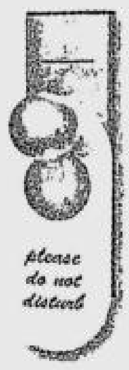

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The wrong war

EDITORIAL

DEFENSE Secretary Angelo Reyes was the country's top general when the Estrada administration successfully waged its "all-out war" against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in 2000. Precisely for that reason, he shouldn't be calling the shots in the on-again, off-again peace talks with communist insurgents.

That's exactly how he appears to the public, however, and the articulate and cerebral Reyes has not been gun-shy about his role.

Last week, after admitting that the government was exhausted from 10 years of unproductive negotiations, Reyes said an inter-agency committee was drafting a "final peace document." He then implied that the rebels had only two choices: they could either take it or leave it. Asked what would happen if the National Democratic Front, the umbrella group that includes the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army, refused to accept the terms of a "final" settlement, he replied: "Sometimes we have to wage war to have peace."

As a matter of military philosophy, this way of thinking is as old as the Greeks, and unobjectionable. The best way to preserve peace, the ancients tell us, is to prepare for war.

As a matter of government policy, however, as an indication of what the Macapagal administration is prepared to do now, in the short term, this way of thinking is counter-productive at best, and catastrophic at worst. If the communist rebels don't accept the final terms, Reyes is saying, they must prepare for war (one, by implication, that is of the all-out kind).

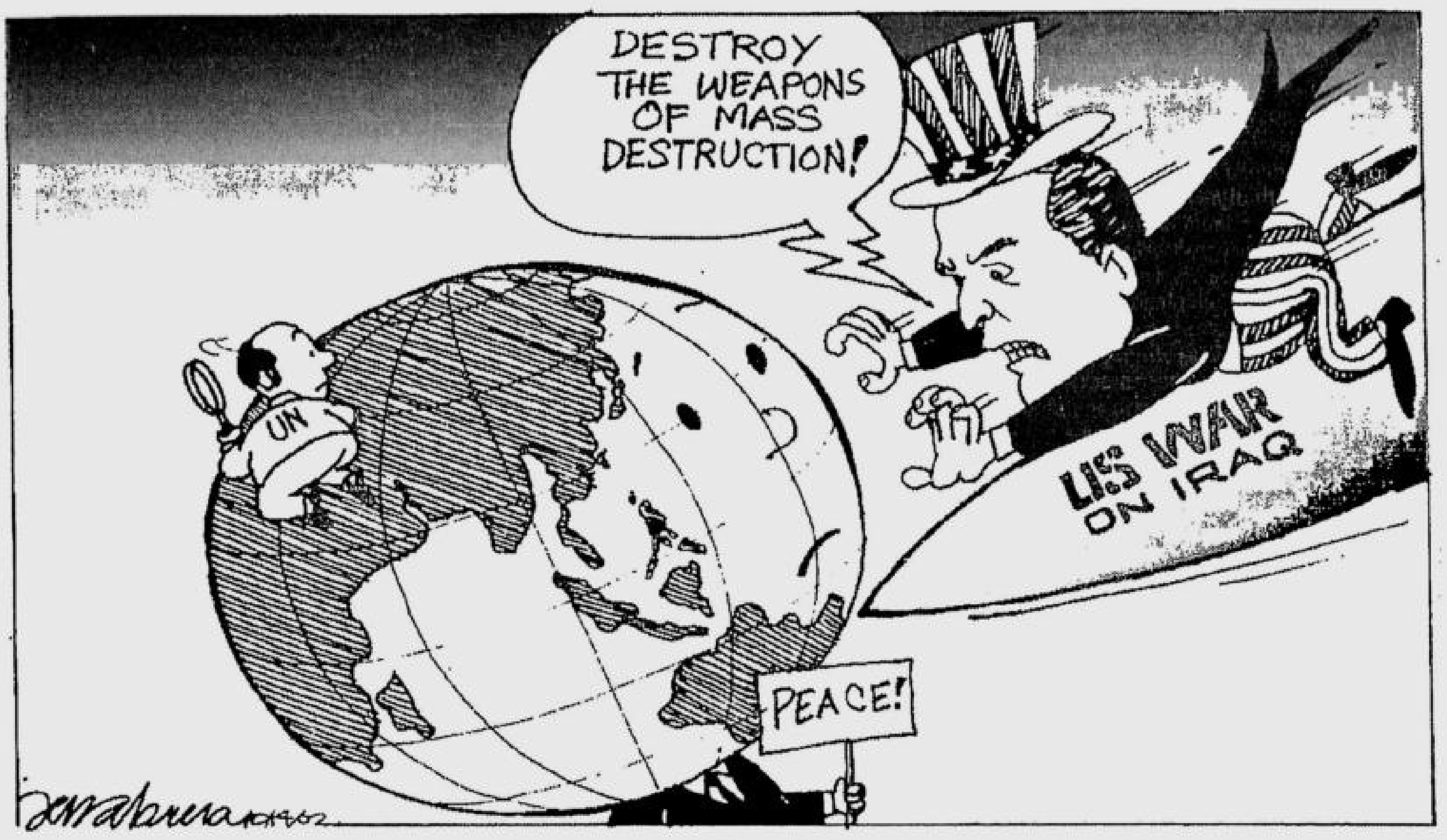
Reyes must think that the armed communist threat can be met head-on, in much the same way as the MILF was. To be sure, he has made the right noises about the wholistic nature of the problem, and the need to provide an "integrated, comprehensive, multi-disciplinary and multi-dimensional" solution. "And because the insurgency problem has political, economic and historical roots," he said last Friday, "then the solution must have these components. The military approach is only to run after the NPA rebels who have committed atrocities against civilian communities." But his tough talk—framing the government's peace initiative in the next few months as a final push, signaling the military's impatience to unleash the dogs of war—can only mean that he has the 2000 war in mind.

This is unfortunate, because the lessons of that war are not applicable to the communist insurgency. Estrada's "all-out war" was eminently of the conventional kind. In the 1990s, it was a commonplace to say that the MILF had, through its network of established camps in Central Mindanao, redefined guerilla warfare. What Reyes and his general staff did in 2000 was to prove that the MILF had done no such thing. Through its camps, the MILF had simply, mistakenly, gone conventional. When the Armed Forces overran the sprawling main base, Camp Abubakar, it was clear that the MILF had found itself fighting, and losing, a conventional war.

The communist insurgency, however, remains very much a war of the guerilla kind. The difference is clearest in Henry Kissinger's famous definition: A guerilla seeks to control, not territory, but population.

Of course it is possible for the AFP to wage war anew on the communists—it has, in fact, continued to launch offensives against the insurgents, in the same way that the rebels have continued to strike at military targets, police outposts and industrial establishments. But in the past 10 years, the armed encounters have taken place against a background of negotiation. Without that background, we can expect even more violence. What we cannot expect, however, is resolution of the Camp Abubakar kind.

The communist insurgents are fighting a different war. Reyes may tell the President otherwise, or he may argue that the conditions have changed and that there is a real alternative to the peace talks, or he may say that the country will be better off wrestling with the black-and-white certainties of war rather than the gray uncertainties of now-you-see-it, now-you-don't peace talks. In all three cases, he will be gravely mistaken.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UN
US WAR ON IRAQ
PEACE!

Sex relaxes, relieves tension

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

THE FLAP over President Macapagal-Arroyo's sex life reminds me of a humorous story about a Hollywood actress who was asked the same question at a cocktail party. I'm not sure who the actress was, but I seem to remember it was Elizabeth Taylor back when she was the Queen of Hollywood and she was still married to producer Michael Todd. Her subsequent husbands Eddie Fisher, then still married to Debbie Reynolds, and British actor Richard Burton, were also at the party. Like I said, I'm not sure of the *dramatis personae,* but let us pretend it was indeed Liz, et al.

A nosy gossip columnist insolently asked Liz, "Do you still have sex?"

Liz, surprised that such a question could be asked of her, answered sweetly, "Often."

"Not with me," Mike Todd, who was standing nearby, muttered under his breath.

"Ain't it the truth," whispered Eddie Fisher.

"I can attest to that," agreed Richard Burton.

* * *

Anyway, that such a personal, private and irrelevant question, instead of affairs of state, is asked of the President of the nation shows how shallow presidential press conferences can be in the Philippines. That her answer could produce such a howl from her critics also shows how equally shallow these critics can be.

"Plenty of sex, very little work," said one.

"It does not follow that if you have a lot of sex, you have lots of accomplishments," said another."

"A woman is beautiful and sexy when she is sincere in working for the common good of the people," said a third.

All.non sequitur. Obviously, these gentlemen are not hep on the latest scientific findings on sex. ("Probably, they can't get it up anymore." Quipped a female journalist.) Scientists and behaviorists will tell you that rather than tire you out, sex gives you vim, vigor and vitality. And that in this sedentary world, having sex is one of the best forms of exercise, which the body needs for good health.

Sex is a good way of releasing tension, according to scientists. It gives you a feeling of utmost relaxation after a session. And considering how tension accumulates in the course of a day in a President's life, he (like Presidents Kennedy and Clinton) or she needs all the relaxation he or she can snatch from a busy day.

Thus, an executive who is relaxed works better. Tension makes a person irritable and prone to commit mistakes. Happy executives are more successful. And sex gives happiness.

Have you noticed how there are so many children in poor communities? Because for the poor, sex is one way of attaining happiness. They believe in the saying that those who have less in life should have more of sex. The celibate critic who griped that "it does not follow that if you have a lot of sex, you have lots of accomplishments" is wrong. You can see the accomplishments of those poor but sexually-happy people running around in their neighborhoods.

* * *

Another female journalist commented that the grumpy old men criticizing GMA's sex life are probably like the Women's Libbers, like Gloria Steinem et al. Some of them are either unhappily married, divorced, separated or single. (Those are her words, not mine.) In short, they have unhappy sex lives. Happily married women with satisfactory sex lives rarely become Women's Libbers, she said. (Is this true?)

Anyway, what she is trying to say is that the men grumping about, or envious of GMA's plentiful sex life, are perhaps sex-starved themselves and therefore they are tense and can't relax. She suggests that they have more of it.

* * *

Some weeks ago, Director General Anselmo Avenido Jr., chief of the newly created Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), ordered a national inventory of all confiscated, seized and surrendered drugs under the custody of drug enforcement agencies. This is a bold move on the part of Avenido because there are rumors that these drugs are being lost, recycled, substituted or mixed with other substances such as flour.

Up to now, however, the PDEA has not released any result of the inventory. Could it be that Avenido has disturbed a hornet's nest, meaning senior drug enforcement agents suspected of protecting drug syndicates and who facilitate the recycling of confiscated drugs?

The rogues in uniform are the first to be affected by Avenido's order because it would stop the flow of easy money that they get from the illegal drug trade. It is an accepted fact that the drug problem cannot be solved because men in uniform—policemen and soldiers—are protectors of drug syndicates.

'Losers'

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

THIS is a (very) condensed version of a speech I gave last Saturday to the forum entitled, "Generation Why: Identity of the Youth In A Changing Philippines," sponsored by the Inquirer *and Ateneo-HPAIR. The full version is in the Inquirer Online:*

When I was in college, I remember writing the editorials for our school paper, anonymously for the most part. The editor of the paper used to ask me to write them for him, and for the price of a meal, I'd do it. How could I know that would be the story of my life?

We were activists then and even changed the name of the paper to reflect our activist ideals—much to the displeasure, of school authorities, who saw time-honored tradition demolished in one fell swoop—and our writings naturally reflected activist concerns. I recall at one point what one of those authorities, a priest, said in reaction to the stuff we were churning out: "It's part of the idealism of youth, it will pass."

It did not help that he said this a little too scornfully. At the very least, we resented the idea that idealism should be equated with naiveté or innocence, or worse recklessness or even irresponsibility. At the very most, we resented the idea that we were not being taken seriously, that they were taking issue with the form and not at the substance. Probably, we said, because they feared the substance, they feared what we were saying.

No, we protested, this wasn't just a phase we were going through. This wasn't something we would outgrow in time.

As it turned out—as indeed most things turn out in this tragicomic world—we were both right.

Some of us never lost their idealism for the simple reason that they did not live long enough to do so. This was so especially after martial law when our activist arguments took on the ferocity of revealed truth, enough for many of us to embrace martyrdom for it. Friends and comrades would tell me later how each time they saw each other in the wilds of Isabela and elsewhere, they would marvel at the fact that they were still alive. Being able to reach 22 took on the aspect of a sublime accomplishment.

Some others did not lose their idealism even though they stopped believing in the ideology, or philosophy, that drove them to lengths of self-sacrifice. They have continued to believe in the motto, "Serve the people," a simple phrase that holds a whole universe of meaning. I myself have tried to live my life by it. For me, it is the essence of what it means to live life epically, to live life generously, to live life to the full.

But the priest turned out to be right too.

Many of us did lose our idealism, our ability, or willingness, to live life by the measure of history. Some did so from fear, or from the sudden blow of reality, and I cannot say I blame them. Martial law was a most fearful thing. Overnight, activism ceased to be an invitation to a colorful love life, which wearing a Che Guevarra cap and T-shirt helped to bring, it became an invitation to a black-and-white death. The prospect of being caught and killed, or worse tortured, became very real, and most of us did not have a yen for it.

Most others just drifted away. There is a saying that love makes time flit by, and time makes love flit by. You substitute revolution for love and it works just as well. Revolution makes time flit by, and time makes revolution flit by. There is something about time that cures afflictions like love and cholera, and passions like heroism and revolution.

As Nikos Kazantzakis warned in "The Last Temptation of Christ," the stoutest barrier to greatness is not the terror posed by the enemy, or his subtle seductions. It is the temptation posed by Ordinary Life. The comfortable, unruffled, uneventful life, the life of settling down, eking a living and keeping a family together. That is the greatest temptation of all.

The same bourgeois life that presumably failed to measure up to the human capacity to make history, which we criticized bitterly, became our biggest Waterloo. Many of us grew up only to discover its infinite pleasures, and the rest is history. That is to say, they are history.

That was how we responded to the challenges posed by our own time. But as I've said, again and again, each generation confronts its own challenges, each generation generates its own responses to them. Unlike many of my former friends and comrades who see only one destination and one way of reaching it, I see many destinations and no end of ways to get there. I have lived long enough to see that history, like God, moves in mysterious ways. I do not believe in a generation's right to tell, or compel, those who come after them to follow exactly in their footsteps. I only believe in a generation's right to tell, or persuade, those who come after them to share the spirit of their struggle, or adventure, the better to embark on their own.

I do not know how you ought to respond to your time and place. But I do know that you have a monumental role to play in turning this country into a better place to live in. The youth, as Jose Rizal said, is the hope of the motherland, but it is so in more ways than are encapsulated in routine paeans to it. You are the hope of Inang Bayan in that you possess a near-monopoly of the one thing that has driven history to march with bigger strides everywhere in the world, that has brought nations and peoples to reach out for things that lie beyond their grasp.

You have boundless idealism.

Unlike the priest I mentioned earlier, I do not hope, or pray, that that idealism will be a fleeting stage in your life, that you will wake up, or grow down, to a cynical kind of maturity. On the contrary, I can only hope that the spirit of expansiveness and magnanimity burns brightly in your breast for a long time, perhaps even forever.

If I must cajole or exhort you to do anything, it is only that you cling to that idealism with all the tenacity that you have, with all the desperation you can muster.

(To be concluded)

Tackling problem of deportation

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

ROME—Two weeks before I got here for the Oct. 6 canonization of St. Josemaria Escriva, some Manila newspapers had reported the possible crackdown on some 130,000 Filipinos said to be working illegally here in Italy and another 30,000 or so in Israel. I sought to verify with Philippine Embassy officials the truth about this report, and both Ambassador Philippe Lhuillier and Labor Attaché Corazon Alfonso have stressed that there is nothing of the sort. In fact, they cannot understand where the report is coming from.

* * *

In various interviews by Philippine radio stations here as well as by the BBC of London, Lhuillier stressed that the embassy has not received any official advice on the possible deportation of Filipinos and neither are there indications of an imminent expulsion of such a big number. To begin with, he pointed out that the figure of 130,000 Filipino illegals is "highly inaccurate and unrealistic" as it is even higher than the estimated total number of Filipinos in Italy.

The official figure given by the embassy on Filipino workers here is over 100,000, with about 30,000 to 40,000 of them without the *permeso di soggiorno* or permit to stay. Filipinos here I've spoken with, though, suspect there are more than that.

* * *

In his interviews, Lhuillier cited the long record of the Italian government, which has been a strong advocate of human rights and the humane treatment of both local and foreign labor in its constitution. He noted that this may be seen in the way it has handled the mass arrivals of illegals in the past, through the implementation of several amnesties or "regularization." These were in 1990, when some 140,000 foreigners were regularized; in 1996, with 250,000 foreigners regularized, and in 1998-1999, with 247,000 regularized. The envoy noted that after each amnesty, there had been no mass deportation of Filipinos undertaken and "we hope the same will be true this time." He hastened to add, however, that in the event that there will be Filipinos who would be deported, he is confident that the Italian government will carry out the deportation in a humane and orderly manner.

* * *

Lhuillier stressed that the embassy is closely monitoring the immigrants' situation and is taking advantage of its network of official and unofficial channels of information to help it prepare for any eventuality. Labor Attaché Alfonso stressed that the embassy has been closely coordinating with the three ministries directly involved in this issue of foreign illegals, those of Labor and Social Affairs, Social Security and Interior. Last Thursday the embassy invited representatives of those ministries and of the various Filipino communities in Italy to a dialogue, to help clear the issue to the latter.

* * *

What seems to have led to the confusion over the status of Filipino workers in Italy and triggered the stories about an impending massive crackdown on them was the confluence of events in the past three months. First was the crackdown on our workers in Sabah by the Malaysian government, which may have caused a degree of paranoia over the fate of Filipino workers elsewhere in the world. Then there was the passage last July of a new law by the Italian Parliament, the Bossi-Fini Law, amending the old existing Turco-Napolitano Law that had governed the status of foreign workers. The new law, which delivers on the campaign promise of the center-right government of current Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi to tighten up on illegal immigrants in Italy, has come up with some stringent requirements that the non-EU workers have to fulfill, or face deportation.

* * *

These developments have caused a good deal of understandable anxiety back home over the fate of our workers here. But a lot can be done to prevent a sad fate from befalling the majority of our workers here, who enjoy generally good pay and humane treatment. The new law demands a basic monthly salary of 439 euros, which is about PhP22,800. But most Pinoys have extra jobs earning them at the highest rate about 8 euros (about P416) per hour; thus, many of the more enterprising ones can earn as much as P45,000 to P60,000 a month. They are also assured by the law of adequate housing and time off.

* * *

But as stated in last Saturday's column, the Italian government is obviously trying to find a compromise between its people's need for help in filling the labor shortage felt here, especially for the domestic workers, and the "*badante*" or caregivers, and the demands for an orderly society by tightly controlling the entry of foreigners. The new law imposes stiff punishments of detention and expulsion on foreigners working without the *permesso*, as well as on employers caught hiring them (punishment for the latter is three months imprisonment and a fine of 5,000 euros).

* * *

But to balance things off, the law now allows the regularization of foreigners who have been working here since last June. There's a new twist to the *permesso di soggiorno*: it is now tied up directly with a contract to work—no contract, no *permesso*. To ensure that there is a real contract, it is now mandatory for the employers to get the *permesso* for their workers. But this requires them to pay a lump sum of 250 to 300 euros representing the average three-month social security contribution for each of their workers.

This is the difficult part. From interviews with some Pinoy workers here, it seems that there are Italian employers who either find it hard to put up the lump sum or are unwilling to do so. Just to be able to stay here, some of our workers end up paying the SSS contribution themselves, thus adding to the burden of a big outlay paid out to the recruitment agency back home. More about this.

'Fish' be with you

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

THE RECENT warning made by Foreign Secretary Blas Ople that the lopsided trade barriers put up by the United States and Europe against the country's tuna industry may soon aggravate terrorism in Mindanao could be dismissed by some quarters as a bit overstated.

Ople was reported to have said before the World Economic Forum in Kuala Lumpur that unless these trade barriers are corrected, some 100,000 direct and indirect "well-paid jobs" will be wiped out. "This is one identifiable link between economic cooperation and the fight against terrorism," Ople argued. But whether that link is rooted or not, it only exposes the bind in which the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo is helplessly in at present.

When the Macapagal administration did not give a second thought in throwing its support to the "international war on terrorism" waged by the United States, it was apparently in the belief that it will open an unhampered access to America's economic cookie jar. Thus, while the other neighboring countries tried hard to dispel the tag of being "terrorist-haven," the Macapagal administration openly embraced the country's label as "anti-terrorism's second front," allowing, despite the protests of peace advocates, civil society and nationalist groups, the participation of American troops in the hunt for the Abu Sayyaf bandit group in Basilan and Sulu. More joint military "exercises" are even expected in the future.

Recently, while most countries eschewed being dragged into the United States' obsession to unilaterally topple the Iraqi regime, the Macapagal administration, in good lackey fashion, immediately offered the country's military, air and naval facilities for any attack on Iraq. Of late, too, the Macapagal administration all the more unmasked its hawkish attitude, by ignoring calls by the Church, anti-war and peace advocates to resume peace talks with the rebel groups, particularly with the local communist rebels who have been tagged by the United States as belonging to a foreign terrorist organization.

However, except for the promised military aid in millions, did the political capital spent by the Macapagal administration pay off economically? The country's tuna industry is one case in point. Despite all the "close cooperation" with the United States, the Macapagal administration is apparently at a loss on how to address the apprehension among leaders of the tuna industry, mainly based in the port city of General Santos, the country's "tuna capital." At the core of the resentment is the pending legislation in the US Congress that includes provisions wiping out steep import taxes on canned tuna from the Andean nations like Colombia, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador and Venezuela—a major US front in its fight against the international drug trade.

During the Sept. 5 "Tuna Congress" in General Santos City that carried the theme "Tuna Without Barriers" which President Macapagal also attended, the common consensus was that the passage of the said US legislation will deal a severe economic blow not only to Mindanao but to the entire country as well. The basic figures cannot be ignored. Six of the country's eight tuna-canning factories are based in General Santos City. The two others are based in Zamboanga City. Each of these factories employs more than a thousand workers. At least 30,000 fisherfolks supply these canneries. The service sector that supports the tuna industry employs more than a hundred thousand persons. Annually, the country's total tuna exports is estimated at around US$100 million to $200 million or about P5.27 to P10.54 billion.

Recently, following a "tuna war" between General Santos City and Davao City in June, a proposal is also afoot for the establishment of tuna-canning factories in Davao, which also host a big fishport that caters mostly to foreign fishing vessels. Yet, under existing rules of the Department of Agriculture, Davao traders are barred from buying non-exportable tunas unloaded at the Toril Fishport, since these must be brought to General Santos City for canning and processing.

Yet, the only consolation offered by President Macapagal to the congress participants is the formation of the so-called Philippine Caucus in the US Congress composed of "friendly" senators like, Hillary Clinton. She also told the congress participants that she even delivered the industry's concern to President George W. Bush himself and his cabinet members. But, did the Bush administration listen? If so, was the message understood? Apparently not, considering Ople's warning and appeal. Obviously, too, even President Macapagal herself is not certain of the prospects of piercing the US trade barrier. In fact, during the congress, she encouraged instead the tuna industry leaders to start looking for other foreign markets outside of the United States, like China.

However, what was eclipsed in the fishy dilemma faced by the tuna industry was the undeniable fact that the Macapagal administration invested much politically if only to show that America's interest is also allegedly that of the Philippines. At the end of the day, though, the reality is that what will prevail are the United States' own unilateral and protectionist interests. In the meantime, the administration may just wish that Ople's warning does not come true. At least, not before the 2004 elections.

* * *

Comments at karlos_z23@hotmail.com and kar_laws@yahoo.com

Terrorism and the religious civil war in Islam

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

ST. MATTHEW'S Catholic School, in San Mateo, California, was a surprising place for me to observe those qualities that make modern American society such an admirable working model that other nations, like the Philippines, ought to learn from and emulate. (I say "working model" to distinguish America's imperfect reality from the ideal but nonexistent forms that dreamers everywhere conjure up with cheap impunity.)

Friday last week was "Someone Special Day" at this medium-sized private school in a middle-class suburb south of San Francisco, where my nephew and niece (Raphael and Lauren) attend school. All the kids had invited someone special in their lives, to attend Holy Mass and a program of sharing heritages in their classroom. Most of the students invited a favorite grandmother or grandfather.

At the breakfast reception before the religious service, I was delighted to discover that the gathering crowd of several hundred people was a veritable cross-section of this remarkable country. I met many different kinds of Americans. Among them were a Greek Orthodox former high school teacher; a family of Russian extraction recently returned from a sentimental trip to Moscow; a Filipina widow; a Nicaraguan immigrant; a Mexican family; Chinese, French, Mexican, German and Jewish people of various circumstances; and non-hyphenated Americans, black and white, from southern California, Michigan in the Midwest, and states, north and south, of the Eastern seaboard. All were Americans in the best sense of the word, as the lively and open debate on the war resolution against Iraq, conducted over bagels, buns, donuts, tortillas and hot coffee, proved to this amused observer and participant from the Philippines.

Not all present were Catholics but everyone seemed at ease, for Catholicism in America, with its recognition of the broader democratic polity, bears no resemblance to the medievalism and exclusivity that characterizes the Philippine Church.

The Church in the Philippines is completely intolerant of other faiths, especially Islam, because it is dominated at the very top by such abominations as the Opus Dei, which still believes in, and actively promotes, the same fundamentalist fallacies as militant Islam. In both cases, this fundamentalism is distilled in the vain delusion of being the "one true religion."

I believe that it is this Catholic fundamentalism which has prevented the growth of Philippine society into a truly tolerant and liberal democracy. If we have a Muslim problem, it is because the Catholic Church and the Catholic majority in every government since Independence have consistently and brazenly violated the constitutional ban on the existence of a state religion. We have never disestablished the Catholic Church as our state religion. That is what accounts for the vacuousness of any debate regarding the separation of Church and State in the Philippines, and futility of its presence in the Philippine Constitution. The judiciary is most of all to blame for this state of affairs, with its Chief Justice, Hilario Davide, evidently incapable of understanding the simple concept that democracy has no room for Catholic triumphalism and bigotry. Muslims in this country cannot possibly feel like equal citizens of it, because, despite having so much less in social life under the tyranny of the majority, they have even less in a fundamental law that is debased by a judiciary that neither understands nor enforces it.

The true strength of America lies, not in its material wealth or military superiority, but in the practice of a liberal democracy that tolerates all religions and cultures. There is an absolute neutrality of the government in all things religious, a neutrality insisted upon by the American judiciary. In this way, has American society become the freest venue for the quintessentially human practice of worship and religious devotion.

In contrast, societies like the Philippines with its official displays of religious piety masking a basic intolerance, seem completely incapable of uniting the people for the purpose of building a prosperous and just society. How can it, when it debases its own Constitution by allowing such patently anti-democratic practices as Catholic Mass at government offices, including the presidential palace of Malacañang?

Religious fundamentalism has an even more tragic effect in the Islamic world. It is perhaps little-known to most of us, (it certainly was to me until very recently) that there is a civil war going on in the Muslim world between militant fundamentalists and the majority of moderate Muslims. The latter see the example of democracies like the United States and want to move away from the kind of strict, patriarchal Islam that teaches all nonbelievers are worthy of destruction. This struggle between fundamentalists and modernists in the Muslim world, is possibly one of the roots of the terrorist movement responsible for Sept. 11. Islamic fundamentalism espouses a kind of religious cleansing, in which all things Western must be swept away from former lands of the Muslim Caliphate (the equivalent of the Catholic Papacy). It has struck out at the United States because that country is seen as the greatest source of the democratic acid which is dissolving centuries of a theocracy so complete, it truly makes no distinction between the state and religion.

This aspect of the Islamic world has profound implications for a thorough understanding of the terrorism which is now beginning to rear its ugly head in Southeast Asia with the horrific bombings in Bali and the possible suicide bombings in Mindanao. I promise a more thorough inspection of it.

* * *

Comments to deanjbocobo@yahoo.com

Would PDI publish gay wedding photos?

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

THAT was the question posed to me by a friend who recently returned from the United States. The news and photos she saw in two US newspapers announcing the marriage of couples of the same sex prompted the query.

Spread out in the "Celebrations" or "Lifestyle" sections of the US newspapers were pictures of two elegantly dressed young men exchanging marital vows, and two women in white gowns kissing lips to lips to seal their commitment to a life of fidelity to one another.

The pictorial did not surprise me because I read earlier that some states in the United States already allow same-sex marriage. These states have enacted laws that govern child custody, property relations and inheritance rights of gay partners. Except for activities that arise from normal childbirth, there is practically no difference in obligations, rights and privileges between this kind of marital union and the traditional heterosexual nuptials.

I recall that last year a bill was filed in the House of Representatives that seeks to legitimize same-sex relationships. As expected, the Roman Catholic Church opposed the legislative proposal. The adverse reaction from the influential religious group prompted the House leadership to hold in abeyance further deliberations on the bill.

The INQUIRER has, on a number of occasions, reported on the activities of the third sex in the country. It has carried blind items about movie personalities of the same gender, who were living together as couples. They were not described as "man and wife" for obvious reasons. It's difficult to establish who's who in that arrangement because, after all, they wore the same kind of underwear.

Criteria

The INQUIRER's Lifestyle editor said she is open to the idea of publishing news and photos of same-sex marriages as long as they meet the newspaper's criteria on timeliness and accuracy of information. This is just one step further from writing about cross-dressing, gay beauty contests and other popular gay activities.

She explained that unlike in the past, today's Filipino gays and lesbians no longer hide in the closet. They have come out in the open and asserted their right not to be discriminated against on account of their sexual preference. The public is no longer "shocked" by their not-so-conventional behavior.

She hastened to add, however, that because of the novelty of same-gender weddings, she would consult first with the editor in chief before acting on a request to have a photo of a gay or lesbian marriage published in the Lifestyle section.

I asked a dyed-in-the-wool INQUIRER reader what his reaction would be if he sees that kind of photo in his favorite newspaper. Shocked and disappointed was his quick reply.

He thinks it would encourage homosexuality among the young and impressionable readers. For those who entertain doubts about their true sexuality, the photo may just be the final finger flick that would push them into joining the third sex. And he nodded his head in a manner that showed his dismay about that possibility.

When I countered that the presence of gays and lesbians in our midst have already been accepted by our society, he retorted that such tolerance does not mean it should be encouraged among our people. Lest he be misunderstood, however, the reader clarified that he has nothing against gays, lesbians or in-betweens, but he will feel uncomfortable if the INQUIRER lends the prestige of its pages to the promotion of homosexual behavior, even if done indirectly.

Nothing wrong

I have an ambivalent attitude on this issue. The left side of my brain tells me that the photos may give the impression to the public that same-sex marriages are already allowed under our laws. Some readers may think the INQUIRER would not publish pictures of the event unless it is convinced that the ceremony is valid.

The problem is the Family Code clearly states that the marriage relationship can be entered into only between a man and a woman. It's a purely heterosexual activity, or reserved for parties of different genders. A male person cannot have marital ties with another male; neither can a female person exchange "I dos" with someone of the same biological make up.

This restriction is rooted on biological considerations. Procreation is supposedly the principal reason why people marry. There is no way two people of the same sex can give birth to children so, the argument goes, marriages between them should not be allowed.

Whether or not that premise is correct is debatable. Let's leave that issue to the sociologists and marriage counselors to ponder on. Until the law is changed, however, the members of the third sex just have to live with the fact that their marital aspirations for each other do not enjoy legal sanction, yet, in this country.

On the other hand, the right side of my brain is sending a different message. It is calling my attention to the reality that many Filipino gays and lesbians are leading "husband and wife" lives without the benefit of legally binding ties. Those relationships may not produce legal effects as far as the community is concerned, but their existence cannot be ignored.

It's like the informal divorce or separation that Filipino spouses go through when they can no longer live harmoniously with each other under one roof. They live separate lives or form new families without going through the legal processes that would validate their actions.

Publishing photos of same-sex marriages may be considered an acknowledgment of the fact that gay relationships among some Filipinos have "advanced" to a higher level. They now want to carve for themselves a certain lifestyle that is unique to their sexual orientation.

Besides, news and photos of same-sex marriage have news value that justifies their publication. The readers may be interested to know the goings-on in the ranks of the local third sex. Whether or not the readers would enjoy reading that kind of news is a matter of taste or attitude on their part.

Frankly, I am not sure what my response would be if my opinion is sought on a request to publish the news or photo of a same-sex marriage. One thing is sure though: I would advise that a certified copy of the marriage certificate be submitted first by the interested parties. It would be embarrassing for the newspaper to break ground on this issue only to be confronted later with a complaint that the whole thing was a hoax.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

What about Garchitorena's backlog of cases?

THE VARIOUS news items in the INQUIRER about the Supreme Court accepting Sandiganbayan chair Francis Garchitorena's desire to retire said absolutely nothing about the disposition of the cases that Garchitorena was unable to do. What will now happen to those cases? It was this scandalous backlog that caused the Supreme Court to censure him in the first place. Now all we have is silence about those unresolved cases. What about the poor plaintiffs and defendants?

A student is not allowed to take the exams if he has not had the proper clearances like having paid his tuition, returned his library books, paid for damages in the lab, etc. A person cannot retire from the government or private firm and get his full retirement benefits if he has not had the proper clearances like liquidating money entrusted to him, being cleared of charges in court, etc. And here, it seems, Garchitorena is getting away with murder.

A man, Able, can forgive the person, Baker, who injured him. But how can Able forgive Baker for injuries done by Baker to a third party, Charlie? Garchitorena injured the people whose cases he heard, but whose decisions he never made.

Cases can be distributed before the hearings to various judges. But how can a judge who had not heard a case be able to make a judgment that is just, if it is based only on transcripts of the hearings and various written documents?

The news items that got printed appear more like the printing of press releases handed out by the Supreme Court rather than the product of the inquisitiveness of reporters and the concern of editors for the truth.

—**VICTOR L. BADILLO,**
Manila Observatory,
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Coverage of the Asian Games

PTV-4/NBN's handling of last year's Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games was good, but the government network is back to its old woeful ways in its coverage of the Busan Asiad. Here are 10 reasons why:

1. For starters, the title chosen for its coverage, "Dream for Gold," may sound sporty, but far from being grammatically correct.

2. Will they please stop airing that same cycle of four or five info-mercials on the likes of Danny Ildefonso and Asi Taulava? They're badly made at *paulit-ulit*.

3. Like his movie namesake, Freddie Abando has returned to spook viewers with his reign of terror (and error) in swimming and athletics.

4. PTV-4 promised a "grand, historic and comprehensive coverage" yet there was hardly any substantial footage of the country's first gold medal won by Paeng Nepomuceno and RJ Bautista in bowling—*maski konting* post-victory interview, *wala*!

5. Inexplicably, the network kept showing marathon matches in volleyball where the Philippines is not even entered.

6. There is a sizeable Pinoy community living in Busan but we haven't seen a single feature on our *kababayans* there. *Kawawa naman sila.*

7. The father-and-son "broadcaster" tandem of Recah and Chino Trinidad has greatly succeeded in "domesticating" the commentary on billiards and boxing. *Para kang nakikinig sa laban ng gagamba sa* Tondo!

8. Sev Sarmenta has been valiantly trying to make viewers think he's right there at the basketball stadium when it's obvious he's not. His erstwhile co-anchor Yeng Guiao has admitted in a newspaper interview that they do the commentary in a little cubicle with a TV monitor miles away from the actual venue!

9. And why are the country's best sportscasters (Quinito Henson, Ed Picson, Chiqui Roa, et al.) here in Manila and not in Busan? *Mas kailangan sila doon, hindi dito*!

10. In one sport, at least, NBN did fulfill its boast of a comprehensive coverage—*sa bilyar kung saan kasama pati 'yung mga panginsulto at pagmumura kay* Nikoy Lining *ng mag-amang* Trinidad!

For quality and sanity's sake, let's have another network telecast next year's Hanoi Southeast Asian Games.

—**BYRON LOPEZ,**
byronlopez0@lycos.com

Better strategy for the war against Saddam

THE LOOMING war against Iraq being pushed by George W. Bush is encountering a negative backlash worldwide because of the angry pronouncements by the hawkish American president.

As a public relations practitioner, I think President Bush's mistake is to overemphasize the domestic concern of protecting the American people from the threat of Saddam Hussein. After the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, another horror of such magnitude will break America's morale. Because of this, we can understand the US president's recent statement even if ordinary mortals shudder at the specter of a World War III. Why should America attack Iraq now and risk the peace of the world just to prevent another strike inside the United States? Is this not very selfish?

To win the sympathy and approval of the whole world for the elimination of Saddam, the United States ought to unveil the horrors of the atrocities and cruelty on the Iraqi people themselves under his dictatorial rule. Many of these acts of violence are revolting since they violate universal principles of human rights and the sense of dignity of any human being. Exposing them in detail will swing the pendulum of public opinion to the American side.

As it is, what the world sees is a belligerent and bellicose US president who is so determined to protect Americans in their homeland, but ready to risk a worldwide conflagration, should the Arab and Muslim world sympathize with a humiliated and pulverized Iraq.

—**VIC DEL FIERRO JR.,**
104 Gaiety St. Better Living,
Parañaque City

Straightening out CAP story

I WOULD like to call your attention to the article written by Elena R. Torrijos published on Oct. 3, 2002 titled, "CAP has covered trust fund deficiency, SEC says."

The article stated that "Over a month ago, the SEC disaccredited CAP's actuary, John Adelbert Austria, for wrong assumptions in CAP's actuarial valuation report."

You will agree with me that there is a world of difference between the words "wrong" and "not acceptable." For Torrijos to have confused one with the other is irresponsible reporting.

Our report was based on "assumptions" and not on hard facts. That Torrijos seemed to have concluded that assumptions are hard facts is editorializing what should be straight news.

One must wonder why Torrijos mentioned my disaccreditation with the Securities and Exchange Commission a month after she found out about it and only to use it as a non sequitur to her rather reluctant report that CAP had met the SEC deadline to cover its trust fund deficiency. (It is interesting to note that there is a palpable difference between the attention she gave the issue when she first reported it and now that the issue has been resolved.)

Obviously, my right to be heard has been subsumed by the reporter's desire to make a scoop—resulting in unwarranted and unfair vilification of my name and professional reputation and an unwelcome source of grief to my family and friends.

I pray that you will call Torrijos' attention to this matter and I trust that she will at least make an attempt to spell my name correctly as a matter of courtesy.

—**JOHN ADLEBERT E. AUSTRIA**

YOU object to the use of the word "wrong" instead of "not acceptable" in my report "CAP has covered trust fund deficiency, SEC says." A SEC official familiar with the matter had used the word "wrong" to describe the assumptions to me and so I used the same word in the report.

You also question why I decided to mention your disaccreditation in the report and this seemed a "non sequitur." I decided to do so because your disaccreditation based on the actuarial valuation report you submitted should provide readers context to view the significance of the fact that CAP had submitted documents to support its scheme to plug its trust fund deficiency.

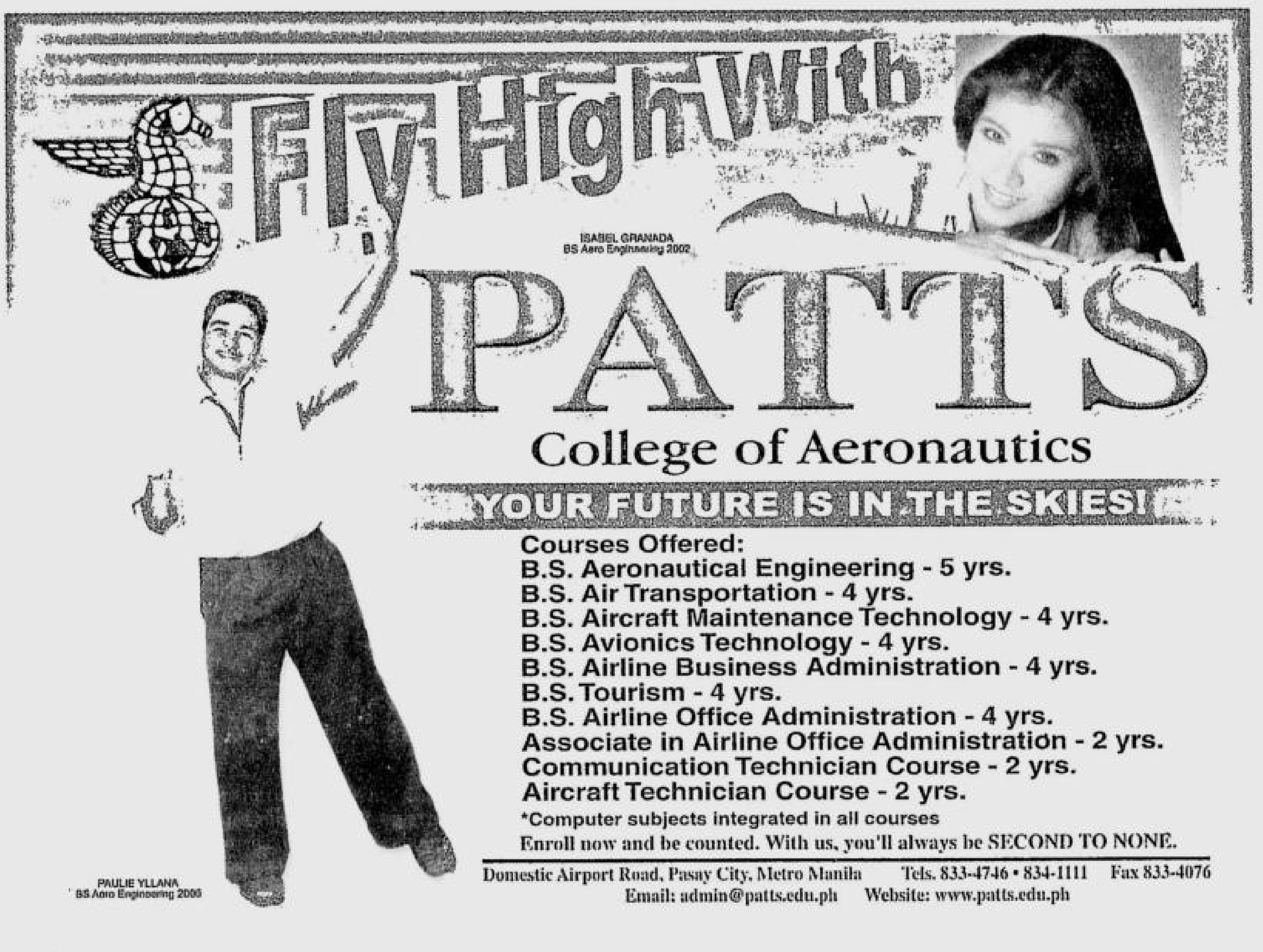
The trust fund deficiency is based on the actuarial valuation report and if this report was rejected by the SEC then the level of the trust fund deficiency is also under question.

I understand from the SEC that CAP is required to submit a new 2001 actuarial valuation report drawn by another actuary.

You also note that my report on CAP's coverage of the trust fund deficiency was "reluctant" because of the difference in attention given to the issue. If I were an editor and not just a reporter, then maybe I could also have a hand in deciding how much attention to give such news reports. As it is, I simply write reports and do not know the kind of treatment it will have when it is published. I know it must be very hard for someone to be disaccredited, hard for his family and friends and bad for his career, but if the government regulator did not believe disaccreditation was appropriate, then there would have been nothing to report.

Lastly, I am sorry for misspelling your name by exchanging the letters "e" and "l." My mistake.

—**ELENA TORRIJOS**



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Australia to press war on terrorism

SYDNEY—Australian Prime Minister John Howard said on Sunday the bomb attacks which killed nearly 200 people in a nightspot on the resort island of Bali were proof that the war on terror must go on.

Howard spoke to Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri by telephone on Sunday and said authorities from both countries were convinced the bombings had been carried out by what he described as terrorists.

"This wicked and cowardly attack, clearly on the evidence available to us, is an act of terrorism that can have no justification," Howard said.

"I can only say again that the war against terrorism must go on with unrelenting vigor and with an unconditional commitment," he said.

Howard said he did not have an exact number of Australian victims but warned that there were likely to be many among the dead and wounded because of Bali's popularity among young Australian tourists.

Australia's Foreign Minister Alexander Downer also said on Sunday he believed the blasts to be the work of a "terrorist organization."

"It is a tough thing to say this, but one would have to assume that quite a number of the dead would be Australians," Alexander Downer told Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

"It does look as though a terrorist organization was involved, and secondly it clearly looks as though this attack has been coordinated, and it clearly looks like an attack against foreign interests," Downer said.

Downer said there were about 40 Australians in hospitals in Bali and of those about 15 were seriously injured.

Visitors included many Australians on trips to celebrate the end of various football competitions around the country.

Simon Quayle, coach of the Kingsley Football Club, an amateur team in suburban Perth, said eight players were missing after the team members had gone to the popular Sari club, which bore the brunt of the damage. "We have no idea where they are or what position they are in," he told ABC television.

"I am so grateful that I and the other 12 blokes got away with our lives. It was absolute chaos in there."

Melbourne tourist Martin Lyons said he had been walking towards the nightclub when the blast happened.

"We were walking out of our hotel to go down to the area where the bomb exploded and basically we were just confronted with masses of people running towards us up the street, it was just horrific," Lyons told the Nine Network Sunday program.

"It's nothing quite like anything I've ever seen—there was more blood, the smell of burnt skin and the pain that they were in, you can't really put that into words," he said.

Downer said the Australian air force was sending medical assistance and evacuation team to Bali on Sunday to take some of the injured to hospitals in Australia, and an RAAF aircraft had left Richmond Air Base in New South Wales.

Australian Defense Force spokesperson Lt Col Mark Elliott said a Hercules aircraft that could hold around 65 people, depending on their condition, would bring the injured back to Australia.

"At this stage it would most likely be Darwin as the first point of entry back into the country," he said.

Australian airline Qantas said it had scheduled additional flights to bring Australians home, with the first of the extra planes to leave Sydney at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. *Reuters*

TWO Canadian tourists offer flowers to victims of the car bomb explosion at the main Kuta Beach area. AFP

Megawati faces biggest challenge of her career

JAKARTA—President Megawati Sukarnoputri faces the biggest challenge of her career amid pressure to crack down on terrorism and stop Indonesia's economy falling into the abyss following the Bali car bomb attack, observers said Sunday.

Human rights activist Hendardi told AFP that Megawati would inevitably have to undertake a tough campaign to wipe out terrorism if Indonesia was to regain some semblance of international confidence.

But he said Megawati must also ensure she does not over extend control and the military's influence and return to the dark days of abuse under former dictator Suharto, who was deposed in 1997.

"Megawati is confronting two simultaneous problems at the same time," Hendardi, who heads the Indonesian Association for Legal Aid and Human Rights, said.

"The first is its (the bombing's) implication on our tattered economy and then there is the dilemma of having to act tough against terrorists without falling into the trap of terrorism by the state. She has show her mettle, tread carefully but fast, or lose her public support altogether."

However Megawati said she could draw some minor comfort in the knowledge the international community would give her all the help she needed.

Megawati flew to Bali on Sunday to assess the scene after the overnight attack on two bars in the popular Kuta district.

Economist Pande Raja Silalahi of the private think tank Center for Strategic and International Studies said that unless Megawati could successfully address the terrorist threat, confidence in Indonesia's business and investment environment would fade away fast.

Fahmi Idris, an MP from the former ruling Golkar party of Suharto's hey days, said that Megawati and her government would no longer be able to delay implementing tough security measures, especially regarding the threat of terrorism.

"Whatever the motivation behind the blast, there should be really serious actions from the part of Megawati and her government," Idris said. "Otherwise Indonesia's country risk will be going down the drain."

The United States has issued repeated warnings in recent months over fears Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, may be home to al-Qaida sympathizers. *AFP*

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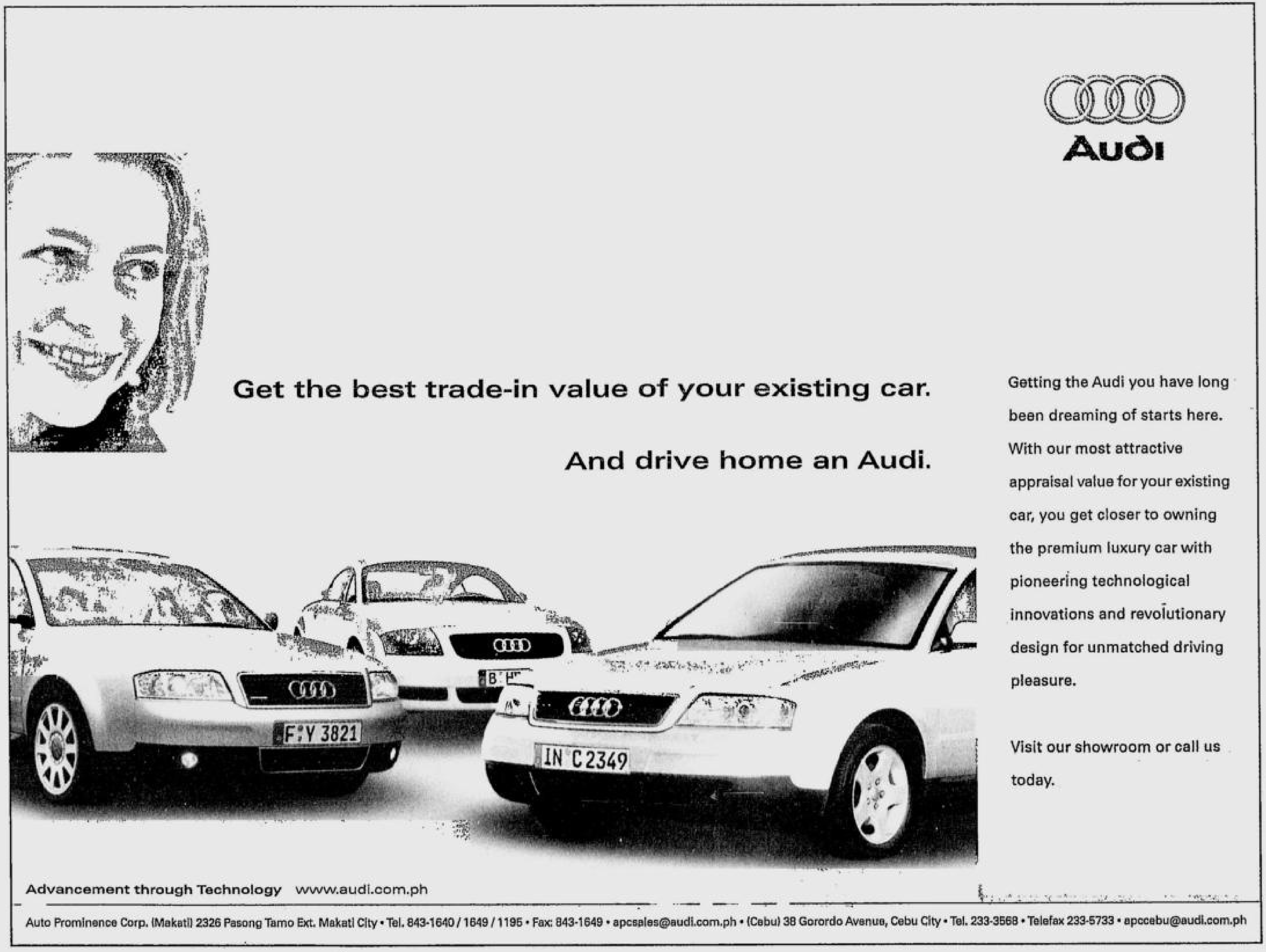
Rightist preacher apologizes

WASHINGTON—Conservative US preacher Jerry Falwell apologized on Saturday for calling the prophet Mohammad a terrorist, saying he meant no disrespect to "any sincere, law abiding Muslim."

The apology came after top Iranian and British officials condemned the remarks, which Falwell made last week in an interview on the CBS new show "60 Minutes."

"I think Mohammad was a terrorist," Falwell said in the interview. "I read enough of the history of his life written by both Muslims and non-Muslims, (to know) that he was a—a violent man, a man of war."

The comments angered Muslims around the world, triggering Hindu-Muslim clashes in western India on Friday and Saturday that left at least nine people dead. Earlier in the week, there were protests in Kashmir, the disputed province at the heart of a military standoff between India and Pakistan, and outside the offices of CBS News in New York. *Reuters*



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ERRATUM

IN THE **"Canon Connections" Supplement** published on pages E-1 to E-4 in the October 9 edition of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, the logo typeface of "Canon" appeared slightly altered. We have traced the cause of the alteration to a digital file transmission error occuring between production and the printers. We have taken the necessary steps to prevent this from happening again.

Our apologies to Canon. Its true logo typeface is printed below.

Canon

Iraqis 100% for Saddam

BAGHDAD—Iraq put the final touches on Sunday to preparations for a presidential referendum designed to show massive domestic support for President Saddam Hussein.

The government wants Tuesday's tightly controlled vote to show that the Iraqi people stand firmly behind Saddam, who is facing the threat of US military attack to end his 23-year iron-fisted rule.

Some 11.5 million voters are eligible to answer a simple 'Yes' or 'No' for another seven-year term for Saddam in office.

Saddam, 65, is the only candidate. The result is not in doubt—official results showed the Iraqi strongman won 99.96 percent of a first referendum in 1995.

Officials, who are presenting the vote as a direct challenge to the United States and President George W. Bush, say privately they want a perfect 100 percent 'Yes' result this time round.

"On the Great March (referendum) day, Iraqis will challenge the siege and the aggression," read one of thousands of banners raised in Baghdad streets alongside posters of Saddam.

"Yes and a thousand Yes to our beloved leader Saddam Hussein," read another.

Saddam, who was appointed president in 1979, has led Iraq in two major wars and survived several challenges to his rule. But with the United States determined to disarm Iraq, his toughest test might come in the next few months.

Bush, who says Saddam is producing weapons of mass destruction, has pushed ahead with US policy for a "regime change" in Baghdad. He is seeking a tough UN resolution on weapons inspections after obtaining congressional authorization for use of force against Saddam. Iraq denies it has nuclear, chemical or biological weapons.

Baghdad's state-run newspapers, television and radio have been urging Iraqis to vote 'Yes.'

"The referendum is a lightening response to . . . the Zionists and Imperialists," read the front page banner of al-Jumhuriya daily.

The ruling Baath Party organized rallies to explain the voting procedures to the public. Free posters and stickers of Saddam were distributed.

"We challenge all the enemies who want to target President Saddam Hussein and we say Yes for Saddam Hussein," Minahal Silfij, a school headmistress told Reuters.

"We have the right to say yes or no to our president," Amel al-Obeidi said. "America will not impose on us a president as Bush likes . . . We don't want any president but Saddam Hussein." *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

On to Kuwait

WASHINGTON—In moves suggesting new Pentagon preparations for war against Iraq, key Army and Marine Corps battle staffs are being sent to Kuwait and officials said Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld is likely to order extra germ warfare protection for hundreds of thousands of troops. Although no final decision has been made, Rumsfeld is expected to give the go-ahead soon for smallpox inoculations, according to a senior defense official who discussed the matter on condition of anonymity. Rumsfeld's spokesperson, Victoria Clarke, said a vaccination program was under consideration, but she would not discuss details. If it goes ahead, Clarke said, it would reflect Rumsfeld's push to provide every available form of protection for troops who might be exposed to chemical or germ weapons—including those who might fight in Iraq. *AP*

Neologism

NEW YORK—"Ground Zero" will, "9-11" surprisingly will not, while "homeland" has almost no chance whatsoever. Those are the verdicts of Allan Metcalf, executive secretary of the American Dialect Society, who claims to be able to predict which among the thousands of new words coined each year will find a permanent place in the national vocabulary. Metcalf, a professor of English at MacMurray College in Illinois, says the words and usages thrown up by the September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States offer a good test of his theories for what makes a successful neologism. Among the more contentious of Metcalf's prognoses is that "9-11"—the widely-used, month-day shorthand for describing the attacks—lacks staying power. "9-11" also commits the cardinal sin for new words of being slightly clever, in that the digits 9-1-1 also make up the national emergency services telephone number. "Being clever or being witty is likely to get a new word in trouble rather than making it succeed," said Metcalf, who outlines his ideas in a book published this month: "Predicting New Words: The Secrets of Their Success." *AFP*

Castro praises Carter

HAVANA—Cuban President Fidel Castro applauded Jimmy Carter on Saturday for winning the Nobel Peace Prize, citing the former US president's "admirable" ethics and his work on health programs in Africa. Castro said the award, announced on Friday, was good news for the whole world and for communist-ruled Cuba, which Carter recently became the most senior US statesman to visit. "He is a man that is truly admirable for his ethics, and important steps were taken during his administration," Castro said, referring to the establishment of low-level diplomatic missions in Havana and Washington, which broke off formal ties with Cuba after Castro's 1959 revolution. *Reuters*

Charges untrue

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan has rejected as "untrue" European Union charges that the voting process in the elections was flawed, as an anti-US Islamic alliance loomed large over a new hung parliament. Accusations that authorities interfered with the electoral process were "indeed unfortunate. This is just not true," a statement released late Saturday by the Ministry of Information said. A preliminary report by the 88-strong European Union observer team said Saturday the interference resulted in "serious flaws" in Pakistan's first general elections since President Pervez Musharraf seized power in a coup in 1999. "There was no such policy or plan," the government statement said. *AFP*

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China party expels 500,000

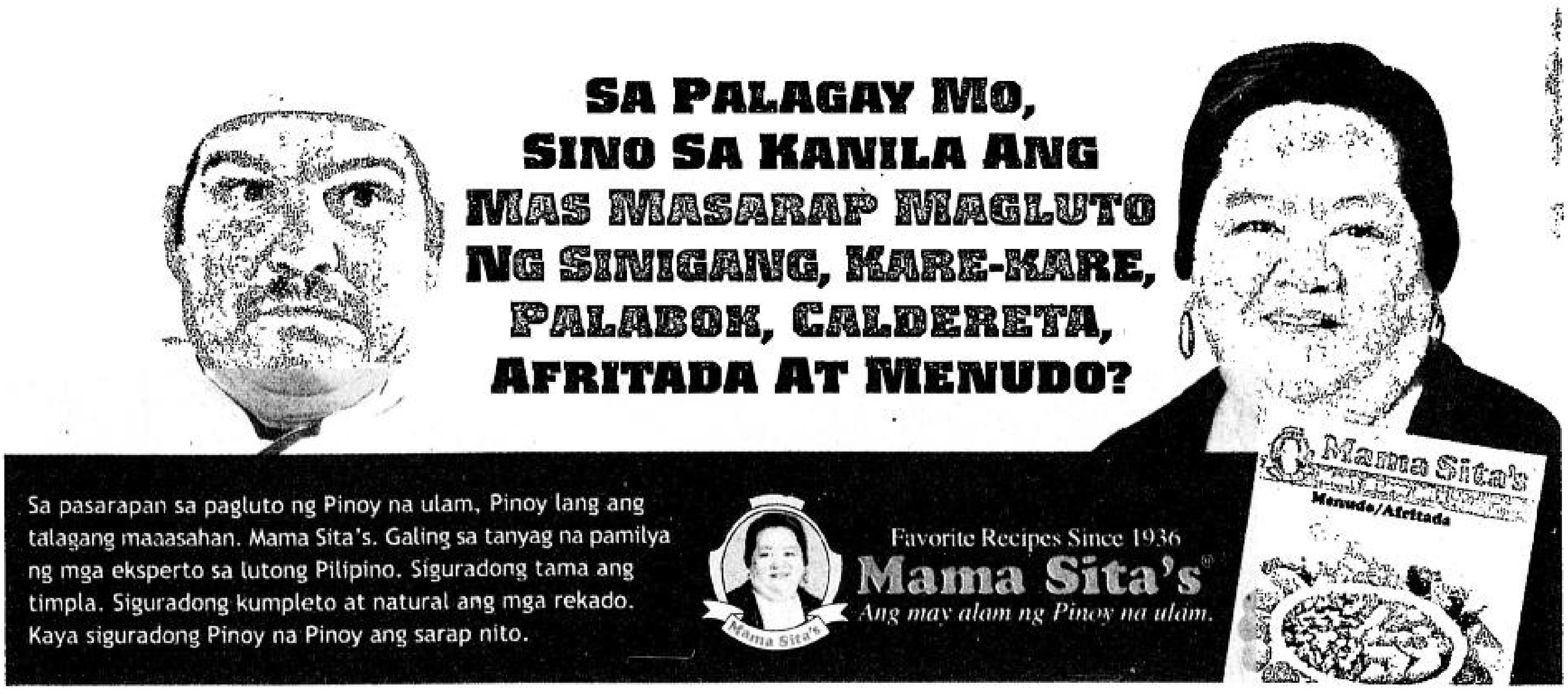
BEIJING—The Communist Party of China (CPC) has expelled nearly half a million members over the past 13 years for various violations of the organization's moral code, state media said Sunday.

"The CPC is . . . strict with its members' moral standards," the Xinhua news agency said. "It has expelled 473,000 members since 1989."

The CPC is one of the largest organizations in the world, with 66.4 million members, up almost 10 percent since 1997. Just over 45 percent of the total are blue-collar workers, laborers in township enterprises, farmers, herdsmen or fishermen, according to recent reports.

For all China's protestations of sexual equality, party membership remains a male-dominated affair, with women making up only 17.5 percent of the total.

In a move prompting dissatisfaction among some traditionalists, President Jiang Zemin proposed last year that "advanced production forces"—presumed to be capitalists—be allowed to join the party. *AFP*



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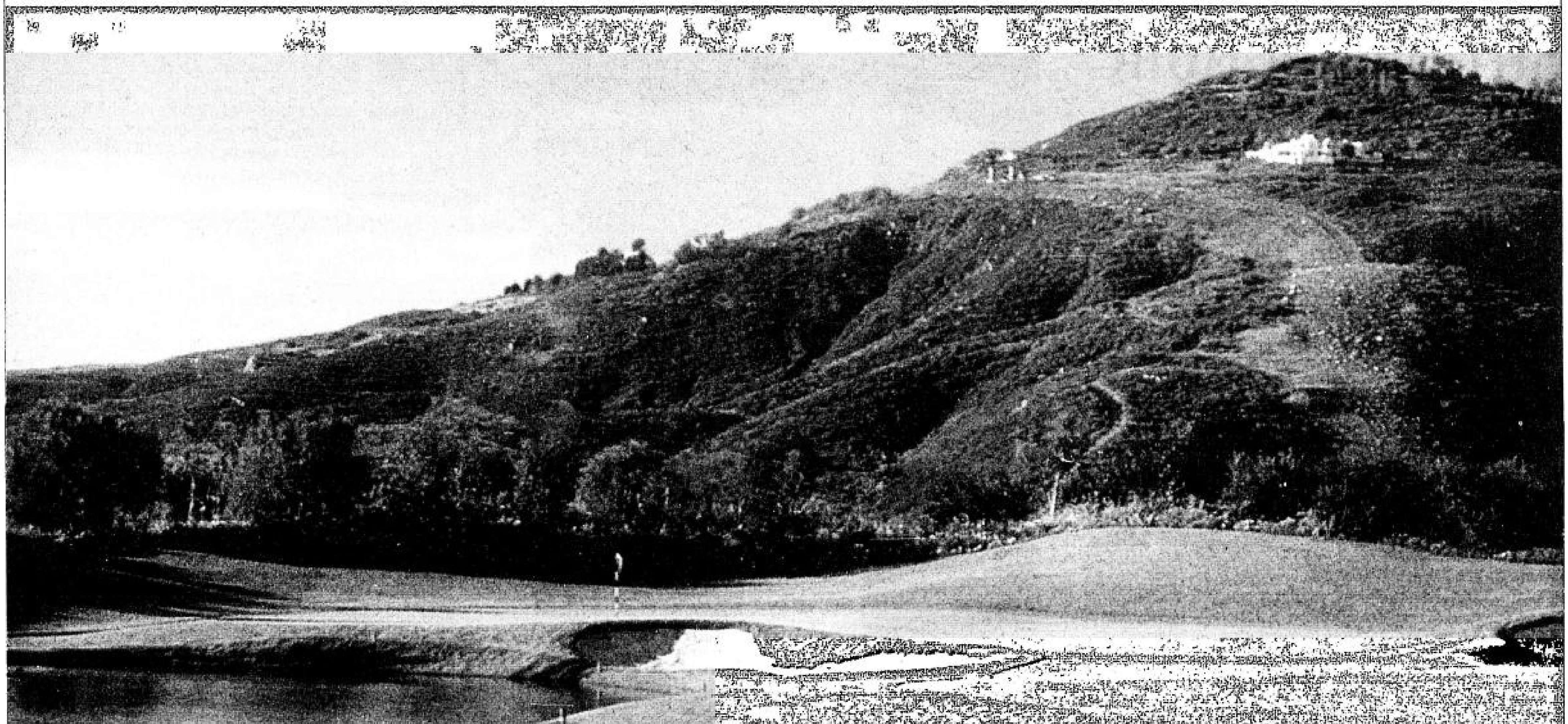

Photo courtesy of Robert Trent Jones II, LLC
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - NATIONAL MEAT INSPECTION COMMISSION

30th Anniversary and Meat Safety Consciousness Week Celebrations

October 14 to 18, 2002

On October 15, 1993, then President Fidel V. Ramos signed Proclamation No. 276 declaring every third week of October as Meat safety Consciousness Week. The proclamation was "a stepping stone in the fulfillment of the government's vision of a healthy and better life for every Filipino." It is so because MSCW is primarily aimed at creating public awareness in the government's vigorous efforts of ensuring "healthy, sanitary and safe practices in the production and consumption of meat and meat products" in the country.

The people need assurance that the meat and meat products they buy and eat are safe, fit for human consumption, and free from any contamination. They need to know too of the existence, mandate and work of the Department of Agriculture – National Meat Inspection Commission.

MSCW is also the time for all stakeholders in the meat and poultry industry – the national leadership, LGUs, the agencies concerned, the meat producers, processors and retailers – to renew their commitment towards meat safety, or in fulfilling their respective duties and responsibilities in making available to consumers only meat that are clean and safe.

DA-NMIC is focusing its efforts on intensifying and optimizing its work. It will "continuously safeguard public health by ably supervising the meat inspection work in the different meat establishments and ceaselessly educate the people on meat safety and on proper consumption of meat and meat products."

That explains the theme for this year's MSCW celebration, namely, *"Ika-30 Taon ng NMIC: Pinag-Ibayong Pagsusuri ng Karne Para sa Lahat."*

Safe Meat for a Strong Republic

As a public health issue, meat safety is rooted in the consciousness of civilized peoples. It results from an attitude for healthy living. The implications are both numerous and far-reaching.

Meat safety, for instance, connotes good policies and programs of the government. Meat safety means effective implementation of rules and regulations on production and handling of clean and healthy meat and its by-products.

Meat safety also calls on meat establishments and processors to comply with good manufacturing practices, standard operating procedures, and hygiene and sanitation.

On the part of consumers, meat safety is their right and privilege.

Ensuring public health through meat safety is a means to our becoming strong and progressive as a nation. The country needs healthy and responsible members. Safe meat, or safe food, nurtures and sustains their individual growth and development.

DA-NMIC Services

Meat Science and Technology Division (Manages scientific/technical support to the NMIC inspection program, manages data collection, acquires/analyses/disseminates within the inspection service scientific/technical meat industry related information)

Banner Program:

1. Conduct of Meat Inspector Training

Meat Plant Standard Division (Develops standards for plant layout, facilities and equipment, provides technical assistance on abattoir construction)

Banner Program:

1. Abattoir Development

Laboratory Services Division (Links with food control laboratories and other local laboratories and organizations concerned with disease control, including water/air pollution laboratories, provide rapid/intensive analysis when meat is suspected of presenting public hazard, or when foodborne epidemic has occurred)

Banner Program:

1. Monitoring of Residues and Pathogens in meat

In-Plant Inspection and Operation Division (Provides technical supervision on meat inspection and meat plant operation, helps disseminate LGUs technical regulations and standard requirements of in-plant operation/inspection, manages certification for local transport of meat and its products, develops/coordinates/implements related activities/programs/projects)

Banner Programs:

1. Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) program
2. Deputation of local meat inspectors

Meat Import and Export Division (Develops plans/programs/procedures/regulations on import/export of meat and its products, ensures meat and its products are produced under NMIC-equivalent conditions/systems, helps exporters determine important requirements for potential export market and resolve differences in requirements interpretation)

Banner Program:

1. Listing of countries that are banned to export meat and its by-products to the Philippines

Regulatory Services Division (Manages systematic evaluation, computation, and or classification of rated capacity of meat plant activities and transport vehicles, directs the agency's review and compliance activity relating to transport, storage and distribution of meat)

Banner Programs:

1. Task Force Bantay Karne
2. Regular listing of accredited meat establishments

Consumer Information, Protection and Assistance Division (Establishes/maintains mass media relations and relations with related civic groups, undertakes continuing education and information campaign so as to provide consumers with facts about meat safety, proper meat consumption, consumer rights and mechanisms for redress available to them)

Banner Program:

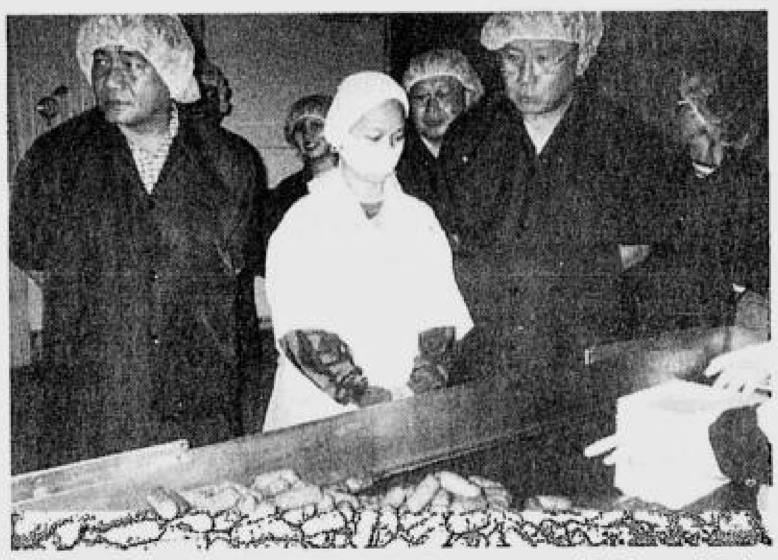
1. Consumer information and education activities

Special Concerns (Draft, review and evaluate policies and implementing guidelines of the agency, handles inter-agency development and foreign-assisted projects, leads in the conduct of research and provide legal advice pertaining to meat inspection, receives and disseminates information and coordinate with concerned agencies in case of disease outbreaks significant to meat inspection)

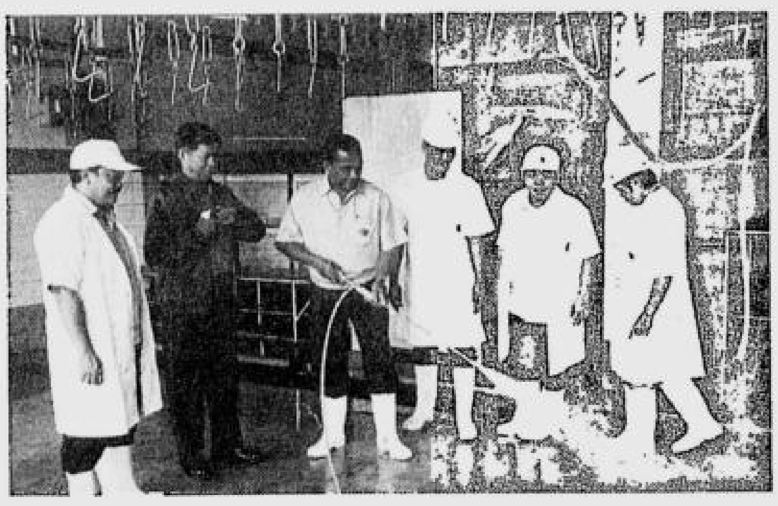
Banner Program:

1. Halal Food Development

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal Arroyo at the inauguration of the Urdaneta City Abattoir. Also in photo are DENR Secretary Heherson Alvarez (2nd from left) and DA-NMIC Executive Director Dr. Efren Nuestro (behind the president).



Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Q. Montemayor (2nd from right) inspecting processed meat products at the Mother Earth "AAA" meat establishment at Mabalacat, Pampanga. Also in photo are DA-NMIC Executive Director Dr. Efren Nuestro (left, Bureau of Animal Industry Director Dr. Jose Molina (third from right), and Mrs. Monica Montemayor (right).



Dr. Efren C. Nuestro (third from left), Executive Director, Department of Agriculture – National Meat Inspection Commission, initiating the Oplan Linis Bahay Katayan at the Rublou Slaughterghouse in Cainta, Rizal. The program is part of the Meat Safety Consciousness Week 2002 observance. Also in photo are (from left) NMIC-IV Director Dr. Simone Gelera, slaughterhouse owner Col. Luizo Ticman, Dr. Nuestro, Rublou meat inspector Teofilo Matel, Dr. Estrelita Espiritu and Dr. Rozalina Herrera of NMIC IPOID.

For their support, our sincere thanks to the following:

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18. New Time Saver Construction Corporation
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Messages

I SEND my cordial greetings to the Department of Agriculture – National Meat Inspection Commission (DA-NMIC) for spearheading the Meat Safety Consciousness Week.

I commend your organization for its unflagging efforts to modernize and to strengthen the meat inspection system to ensure safe and quality meat for all the consumers. Through your resolute commitment, your guarantee the health and well-being of all our countrymen and, consequently, contribute immeasurably to the establishment of a truly strong Republic which takes care of its people and their future.

May you continue to be ardent supporters of our vision to realize better health, greater safety, and increased productivity for the Filipino people.

Mabuhay!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

NAIS kong ipaabot ang maalab na pagbati sa mga pinuno at kawani ng National Meat Inspection Commission (NMIC) sa paggunita ng inyong ika-30 taong anibersaryo at pardiriwang ng "Meat Safety Consciousness Week," tuwing ikatatlong lingo ng Oktubre.

Kami sa Kagawaran ng Pagsasaka ay nakikiisa sa inyong puspusang pagpapatupad ng mga kaukulang batas, kautusan at patakaran upang siguruhin and produksyon ng malinis, ligtas sa sakit at kulugod-lugod ng mga pagkaing karne mula sa ating bansa maging yaong inaangkat mula sa ibayong dagat.

Sa loob ng tatlumpong taon, malaki na ang iniambag ng NMIC sa patuloy na kaunlaran ng industruya ng paghahayupan at sa buong sektor ng agrikultura ng bansa. Nagsisilbi rin kayo bilang isang behikulo upang makamit natin ang minimithing kasapatan at kaseguruhan sa pagkain.

S ainyong ika-apat na dekada at sa mga susunod pang mga taon, nawa's pagkalooban kayo ng Poong Maykapal ng patuloy na biyaya at panibagong sigla upang lubos at tapat ninyong mapaglingkuran ang sambayanang Pilipino.

Hangad namin ang matagumpay ng pagdiriwang ng inyong ika-30 anibersaryo.

Mabuhay ang NIMC!

Leonardo Q. Montemayor
LEONARDO Q. MONTEMAYOR
Kalihim

This year's observance of Meat Safety Consciousness Week, which coincides with the 30th anniversary celebration of the National Meat Inspection Commission, truly augments the on-going food security and food safety programs and policies of the government.

It recognizes the efforts and commitment of our meat inspection officers in ensuring the production of clean, healthy and sound meat for the consuming public. It accentuates the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders, especially, the private and business sectors, in the country's entire livestock and meat industry. And, more importantly, it raises awareness on the risks involved in eating 'hot meat', or meat coming from food animals that were clandestinely slaughtered and sold to the public.

This is an encouraging event as it comes on the heels of the World Organization on Animal Health certification of the greatest part of our land area as FMD-free areas, a proof that we are indeed winning the fight against Foot and Mouth disease. It is also well timed, as it is celebrated simultaneously with World Food Day 2002. And, it reminds us of the correlation of food safety to nation building.

On this note, I am urging the NMIC to continue doing their no-nonsense, noble work. And, as unmistakably enshrined in this year's theme, "Ika-30 Taon ng NMIC: Pinag-Ibayong Pagsusuri ng Karne Para sa Lahat", I look forward to a more fruitful and worthwhile meat inspection programs, projects and activities.

My best wishes to all!

(*Sgd*)CESAR M. DRILON
Undersecretary for Livestock and Fisheries

It brings me great pleasure to convey my sincere felicitations to the men and women of the Department of Agriculture – National Meat Inspection Commission on the auspicious event of observing Meat Safety Consciousness Week 2002 which coincides with the agency's 30th anniversary celebration on October 14-18, 2002.

I believe that the DA-NMIC family is a dedicated and responsible group of professionals who wouldn't dare leave a stone unturned in fulfilling its mandate - that of protecting the interest, health and general welfare of the meat consuming public, and endeavoring for the development of the livestock and meat industry.

I congratulate the agency's meat inspection officers for their relentless work in letting meat establishments strictly adhere to established practices, procedures and systems governing the production, processing and handling of meat and its by-products.

Indeed, their concern has always been to ensure the production of clean, healthy and sound meat for food. Their focus has always been to pursue the food security and food safety programs of the government. This they do by enhancing and elevating to international standards the country's meat inspection service.

And, that is the message that they all wish to convey to us in this year's theme, "Ika-30 Taon ng NMIC: Pinag-Ibayong Pagsusuri ng Karne Para sa Lahat."

They deserve our commendation. They need our support. They expect us to ably lead them in such noble undertaking.

And, we will.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

(*Sgd*) DR. EFREN C. NUESTRO
Executive Director

Israeli troops kill 4

RAFAH, Gaza Strip—Two Palestinians, one a 3-year-old boy, were killed and more than 30 wounded in the Gaza Strip on Sunday when Israeli troops raided a refugee camp and demolished houses security forces said concealed arms-smuggling tunnels.

Israeli soldiers also shot dead two gunmen trying to penetrate an Israeli town from the nearby frontier with Egypt.

The southern Gaza Strip has been a flash point during the Palestinian uprising for independence and the army often raids Rafah camp in operations it says are aimed at destroying tunnels dug by militants to bring arms into Gaza from Egypt.

Troops used tanks and bulldozers in their overnight raid into the teeming refugee camp. *Reuters*

Multi-state hunt on for US sniper

WASHINGTON—A high-velocity rifle, cold calculations and a swift disappearance—possibly in a white truck—are the signature of a deadly sniper who remained at large on Sunday after killing eight people and wounding two others around Washington, DC, over 10 days.

Federal, state and local police have launched a multi-state manhunt while everyday activities for residents in communities around the US capital have ground to a halt.

Simple acts—attending a school sports match, a stop at a gasoline station, shopping for groceries—become acts of courage while the killer who apparently picks his victims at random before shooting them remains at large.

A homicide late Saturday night in Oxon Hill, Maryland, that prompted a massive response by police believing at first the sniper had struck again was unrelated to the deadly string that began over a week ago, police said early on Sunday.

The Tarot Card sniper claimed his 10th victim and eighth fatality on Friday. Kenneth Bridges, 53, a businessman and father of six on the road from Philadelphia, was killed while filling his car with gasoline at an Exxon station.

Police on Saturday focused on locating a box-shaped white truck. The mid-sized commercial truck, which has light damage to its right rear bumper, may be an older model and has black lettering—a row of large black block letters above a row of smaller letters—on either side, Montgomery County Police Chief Charles Moose said.

Moose said the truck, which has a roll-up door at the rear, was seen at more than one of the shootings by more than one witness. He declined to discuss any of the witnesses further.

"None of the witnesses have been able to give us the exact wording" on the truck or its license plate number, Moose said at a news briefing.

Moose said analysts are working on another composite graphic representation of a second vehicle, described as a white Chevrolet Astro van, seen by at least one witness driving erratically in the vicinity of Friday's shooting.

Physical evidence has been scant, with one taunting clue apparently left by the shooter near where a 13-year-old victim was shot: A Tarot "Death" card with the words "Dear Mr. Policeman, I am God" scrawled on the back.

Friday morning's killing was especially brazen. The victim was at an Exxon station off the busy I-95 highway in Spotsylvania County south of Washington and a Virginia state trooper was dealing with a traffic accident across the street. *Reuters*

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SUPERVISORY DEVELOPMENT AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING		
October 21 – November 4, 2002	M-W-F	6:00PM- 8:00PM
BUSINESS LETTERS AND REPORT WRITING		
October 21 – November 4, 2002	M-W-F	6:00PM–8:00PM
EFFECTIVE CUSTOMER RELATIONS AND HANDLING COMPLAINTS		
October 19, 2002	Saturday	1:00PM–5:00PM
PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT		
October 26, 2002	Saturday	1:00PM-5:00PM
COST ESTIMATION FOR BUILDING CONSTRUCTION		
October 26 – November 16, 2002	Saturday	1:00PM-5:00PM
ASSERTIVENESS TRAINING FOR MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS		
October 19, 2002	Saturday	1:00PM–5:00PM
RECORDS AND FILE MANAGEMENT		
October 21 – November 4, 2002	M-W-F	6:00PM–8:00PM
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE		
October 26 – November 16, 2002	Saturday	1:00PM-5:00PM

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DENR orders resumption of S. Leyte river quarrying

By Jani Arnaiz, *PDI Visayas Bureau*

SOGOD, Southern Leyte—Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez has lifted the controversial "suspension" on quarrying operations at the Subang Daku River here.

Alvarez's order allowing the resumption of sand and gravel extraction at Subang Daku River came upon the recommendation of a task force he created after criticisms were raised on the questionable suspension order he issued on April 9.

The DENR Regional Crises Reaction Team (RCRT), formed to address the brewing controversy at Subang Daku, also recommend that the suspension be lifted. The river also needs to be re-channeled because its flow of the water has been hindered by the accumulation of tons of debris and other materials in the riverbed, the RCRT said.

A study by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) revealed that 1.8 million tons of rubbles from upstream, which is along the Philippine Fault, are carried by flood water during heavy rains and accumulates in the riverbed.

MGB scientists have warned that if the debris is not extracted from its bed, flooding may occur since floodwater makes its way to the banks. At least seven barangays sit along the 7-kilometer river stretch.

Alvarez's memorandum dated Sept. 25, said the lifting of the suspension of quarrying was "part of steps to mitigate or avert any disaster along Subang Daku River that may arise due to heavy rains or typhoon."

Alvarez directed the RCRT to play an active role in the planning and design of the re-channeling, which shall be undertaken by the DENR, the Department of Public Works and Highways, the National Irrigation Administration and concerned local government units.

Those who have quarry permits were required to assist in the rechanelling through "controlled and regulated disposition of excess materials," the order said.

The officials of barangays along the river were tasked to monitor the volume of sand and gravel extracted to insure there will be no over-extraction.

The DENR in Eastern Visayas suspended in April quarrying operations at the river saying it was ordered to do so by Alvarez.

The suspension was questioned by the provincial government saying it should have been given a copy of the order since it is the one issuing permits to the river's quarrying operation five hectares below.

The controversy surrounding the quarrying operation at the river began in December when floodwater damaged a big portion of the province's national highway. Southern Leyte Rep. Aniceto Saludo blamed Gov. Rosette Lerias for granting commercial sand and gravel extraction permit at the river.

The group Save Subang Daku Movement called a stop on all quarrying operations at the river.

But Lerias said the extraction was needed to avert flooding and hasten the implementation of infrastructure projects.

Surigao residents burn mining equipment

PLACER, Surigao del Norte—Some 150 residents of Barangay Anilasgan here on Thursday burned a heavy drilling equipment of the mining firm Diamond Drilling Corp.

Supt. Ricky Nerbes, provincial police chief, said criminal charges were set to be filed today against the residents, whom he claimed to have gone into hiding.

"We have identified some of them, they are now on the run," Nerbes said, adding that some barangay council members were involved in the burning.

He estimated the destroyed equipment to be worth more than P2 million.

Residents have opposed and warned of violence if the Diamond Drilling Corp., the exploration arm of the Manila Mining Corp., continued with its exploration amid accusation of widespread harassment and manipulation in the acquisition of its exploration permit.

The tension earlier prompted Environment Sec. Heherson Alvarez to order a moratorium on the planned exploration and give MMC time to address the residents' concern.

"MMC must attend to the technical problem and opposition of the community and fulfill their obligation," Alvarez said.

Residents set ablaze the equipment by pouring gallons of gasoline and dried coconut leaves. The residents earlier seized the equipment which was to be transferred to another location.

Estella Udtohan, chair of Barangay Anislagan, earlier said they oppose the proposed exploration of some 2,463-hectare land in their village, citing irregularities in the permit and future environmental havoc.

Chief Supt. Alberto Olario, regional police chief, blamed the untoward incident on the MMC management for not obeying the DENR moratorium. *Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Priest in sex abuse charges sues parishioners

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—A parish priest in Tigbauan town hit back at parishioners who accused him of sexual abuses by suing them for libel and perjury.

Fr. Eleuterio Carton, parish priest of St. John of Sahagun, sued Pedro Ledesma, Offer Templona, Gerrylin Camposagrado, Leah Arnaiz, Eusebia Grecia, Lilia Tronco, Lira Cazenas, Buenaflor Torillo, Edna Ruiz, Rizalina Silla, Crestita Belen, Warner Alupihan and his mother Luz Alupihan.

He also sued the two Alupihans, Ruiz, Belen and Silla for perjury.

The case, filed last Oct. 4, is now at the City Prosecutor's Office. Carton asked for P1 million in damages.

"I sued them because I want the truth to come out. It brought me great relief," said Carton in a telephone interview.

Bringing the issue to court serves as warning to others not to commit the same offense to a person of his status and social standing, he said.

The priest based his complaint on news stories of his "alleged sexual misdeed and sexual abuse" that came out in Iloilo's community newspapers and aired over local radio stations in early June.

The stories were based on allegations of Templona, Camposagrado and Arnaiz who, in a press conference, distributed copies of their letter of complaint submitted to Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo.

Along with the letter was an affidavit of Warner Alupihan, an Army soldier, who claimed that the priest sexually harassed him sometime in 1996. His mother, Luz, backed his son's claims from the story she had heard from him. Warner was 17 when the alleged incident happened.

Silla's affidavit claimed that Carton uttered "foul words," while Ruiz's affidavit claimed that Carton "performed sexual acts."

The priest debunked the allegations. Carton's friends and supporters, namely Leo Jeme Dingson, Lydia and Oscar Tupas, George Tribunal and Victoria Gaitan, also issued sworn statements branding as false the statements of the priest's detractors.

Fr. Emmanuel Trance, spokesperson of the Jaro archdiocese, said he did not know that Carton filed the libel and perjury case against 13 parishioners in Tigbauan although he knew that Carton was mulling over it months ago.

A presbyteral committee of the archdiocese of Jaro had investigated the charges against Carton in August but Trance said the issue was tossed back to the Tigbauan parish, with a hope that Carton and local church leaders would patch things up.

In a recent general reshuffling of parish assignments, Carton was not given an assignment and another priest was named to replace him in Tigbauan.

Assault charge filed vs Bohol vice mayor

TAGBILARAN CITY—A councilor of Talibon, Bohol has filed direct assault and grave misconduct charges against the town's vice mayor, a fellow councilor and a casual worker after the three allegedly beat him up without any provocation at midnight last Sept. 12.

Councilor Niño Bongcaras named Vice Mayor Robesito Artiaga, Councilor Vicente Auza and Dennis Avenido as the persons responsible for the mauling in his Sept. 20 letter-complaint to Visayas Ombudsman Primo Miro. *Chito Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Laguna mayor foils suspension order

SAN PABLO CITY—Mayor Florante "Boy" Aquino Jr. yesterday said he had obtained a temporary restraining order from the court and filed a motion for reconsideration that would deter the enforcement of a preventive suspension order against him.

Acting Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio Jr. ordered on Oct. 10 the mayor's suspension for three months while an administrative case against him is being heard.

Aquino was facing charges of "dishonesty, conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service" at the Office of the Ombudsman.

The Ombudsman's order was based on an order issued on Sept. 13 by the Office of the Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon, which granted the urgent motion of several complainants led by Vice Mayor Lauro Vidal for Aquino's preventive suspension.

The complainants alleged that Aquino had failed and refused to remit a P400,000 donation, despite demand, to the city treasurer of San Pablo.

Aquino, however, explained that part of the P400,000 was paid for the mayor's permit, which cost P33,070. The balance of P366,930 was donated by him to the Coco Festival and Mardi Gras celebration, the expenses of which amounted to P667,611.67.

He said the balance of P9,681.67 came from donations by business establishments and booth and carnival fees, which amounted to P657,930.

Aquino said he had already spoken to DILG Secretary Jose Lina the other day and was assured that the order would not be served in consideration of the TRO and Aquino's motion for reconsideration..

Cotabato

In Kabacan, Cotabato, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan has issued a 60-day suspension order against Mayor Luzviminda Tan pending investigation of an administrative case filed before the provincial council.

The suspension took effect Wednesday last week.

The case was filed by Corazon Sumatra and members of Sagip Kabacan, a multi-sectoral group here known for its opposition to the mayor. Sumatra is the mother of a Sagip Kabacan member who was killed in a shooting incident at the town hall on June 11.

Board Member Eliseo Garcesa, chair of the committee on rules, laws and privileges, said the suspension order came after Tan failed to beat the Oct. 3 deadline for filing her response to the complaint.

"The period already lapsed. It means they already waived their right to present their evidence to counter the complaint," Garcesa said.

Illegal

Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol on Wednesday signed the suspension order.

Tan met with Piñol to discuss the matter on Wednesday. But Piñol urged Tan to just respect the order, saying she was placed under preventive suspension "not because you are guilty."

"If the SP investigation is terminated in 20 days, I think the lawyers of Tan can always file their petition for the lifting of the suspension order," Piñol said.

Tan said she and her lawyers were asking the Court of Appeals for a Temporary Restraining Order. She tagged the SP's move as unjust and illegal. *Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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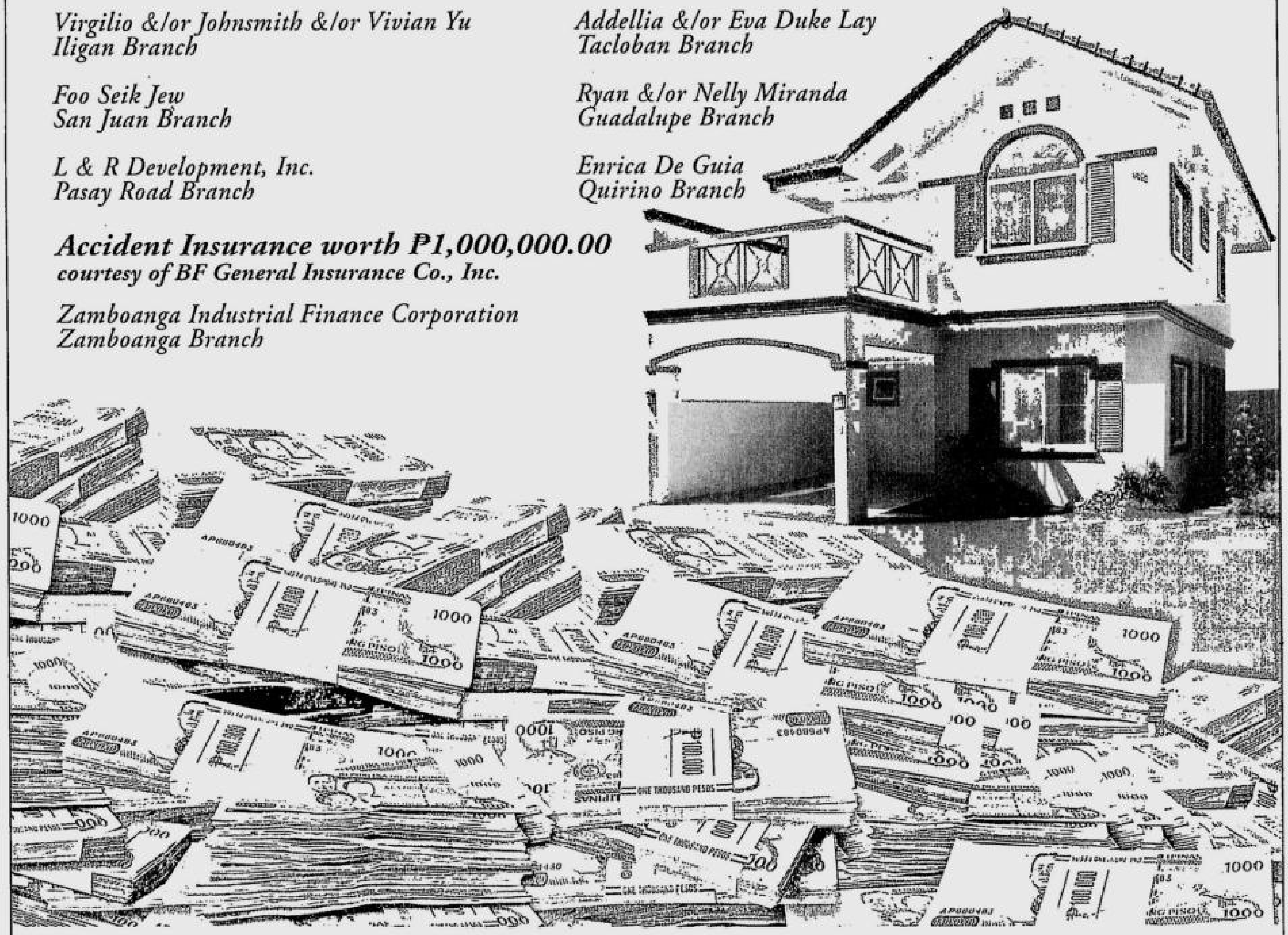

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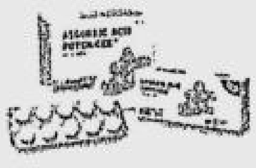

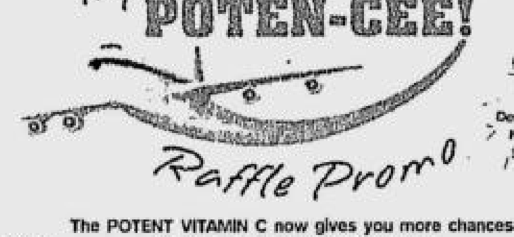

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Car bomb explosion kills 187, injures 300

From page A1

Sari Club, a popular nightspot frequented by foreigners. The government's crisis center on the island said 187 people had died and that 300 were hurt, about 90 of them critically.

The blast left a large crater at the entrance to the nightclub, located in the center of Kuta Beach, Bali's biggest tourist area. Its maze of clubs, restaurants, shops, hotels and beach bungalows caters to a younger crowd of tourists and surfers.

The blast ignited a huge blaze—apparently caused by exploding gas cylinders—which collapsed the flimsy roof structure, trapping hundreds of revelers inside.

Bali police chief Brig. Gen. Budi Setyawan said most of the victims were Australians who were celebrating the end of various football season competitions. A number of Germans, Canadians, Britons, Swedes and Indonesians were also among the other victims.

Worldwide alert

No one claimed responsibility for the blasts that came three days after the US government issued a worldwide alert for terror attacks. The explosions highlighted fears by the United States and others that Indonesia was becoming a haven for terrorists and that al-Qaida operatives were active. *(See story on Page A1.)*

President Megawati Sukarnoputri, whose government has been accused by the United States and its neighbors of being slow to respond to the terror threat, flew to Bali and promised to cooperate with the international community in fighting terrorism.

"The bombings, once again, should be a warning for all of us that terrorism constitutes a real danger and potential threat to the national security," Megawati said.

Asked about the suspected origins of the bombers or a possible link to al-Qaida, she said: "That will be continuously investigated so that this can be uncovered as soon as possible."

A tearful Megawati later visited the site together with security ministers and top generals.

A security alert was declared across Indonesia's 13,000 islands. Security Minister Susilo Bambang Yudhyono said that strategic targets, like liquefied natural gas plants, "will be protected."

Australian Prime Minister John Howard said he would launch an urgent review of national security. Australia, a staunch US ally, has been on a heightened state of alert since the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States last year.

"People should get out of their minds that it can't happen here; it can, and it has happened to our own on our doorstep," Howard said. *(See story in The World, Page A11.)*

Massive damage

The Sari Club explosion and fire damaged about 20 other buildings on the same block. Twenty cars were either destroyed or badly damaged.

Wayan Putra, a hotel driver, said that after the blast, hundreds of townspeople rushed toward the club but could not get close due to intense flames.

Dozens of injured were evacuated by moped drivers who normally ferry tourists from one part of the resort to another. Ambulances also arrived. The blaze was extinguished several hours later.

"It was horrible. I am devastated. Bali has always, always been safe. We depend on tourism for our livelihood. Our name has been smeared by this horrible blast," Putra said.

Bali police spokesperson Yatim Suyatmo said police believed all the explosive devices were home-made bombs.

Australia's Qantas airline scheduled an extra flight to Bali to evacuate Australians. Bali, a predominantly Hindu enclave, is Indonesia's top tourist destination.

"It does look as though a terrorist organization was involved," Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said on television. "It clearly looks as though this attack has been coordinated, and it clearly looks like an attack against foreign interests."

Downer said there were about 40 Australians in hospitals in Bali and of those about 15 were seriously injured.

Simon Quayle, coach of the Kingsley Football Club, an amateur team in suburban Perth, said eight players were missing after the team members had gone to the Sari club.

"We have no idea where they are or what position they are in," he said.

The blast in Bali, a mainly Hindu corner of Indonesia popular with everyone from hippies to high-flyers, coincided with heightened security around the world and followed a bomb blast in Finland, another unlikely target, that killed seven people and wounded dozens.

"If you look at the number of victims, this was indiscriminate," Bachtiar told reporters.

US statement

US Ambassador Ralph Boyce said in a statement that the United States "condemns in the strongest possible terms this despicable act of terror" and offered assistance to Indonesia "to see that those responsible face justice for this cowardly attack."

In September, the American Embassy in Jakarta closed for six days because of terror threats linked to al-Qaida.

Last month, a hand grenade exploded in a car near a house belonging to the embassy, killing the man suspected of handling it.

Last week, regional security sources said the United States was considering withdrawing some embassy personnel from Indonesia after a grenade blast in the capital raised questions about Jakarta's ability to provide security.

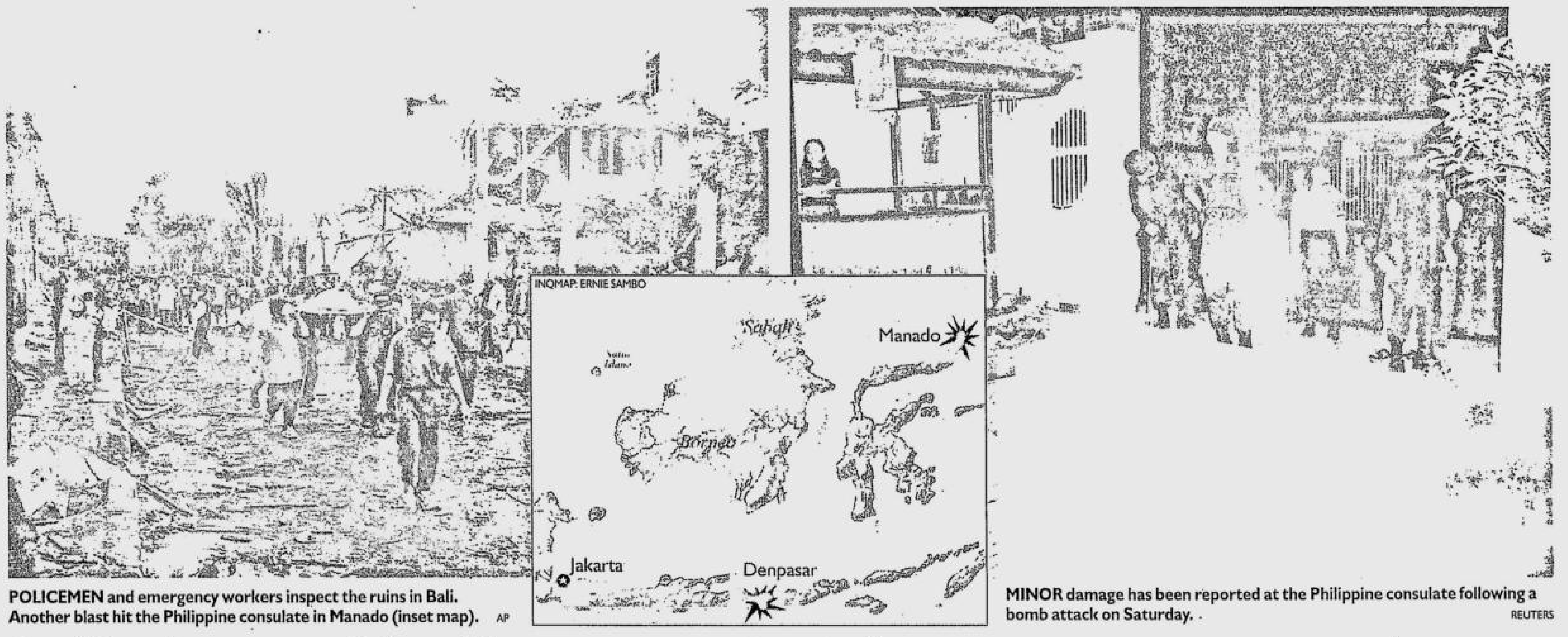
Yesterday, the US Embassy's recreation club in Jakarta was evacuated after a bomb threat.

Authorities in Malaysia and Singapore have alleged that members of Jemaah Islamiyah—an al-Qaida-linked group seeking to set up an Islamic state in Southeast Asia—are based in Indonesia.

Several countries have pressed Indonesia to arrest Jemaah Islamiyah's alleged leader, Abu Bakar Bashir. But Indonesia says it has no evidence against Bashir, who has sympathizers in Megawati's government. (See story on Page A1.)

Before dawn on Sunday, flames licked the air around the rubble of the Sari as tourists carried victims away from the carnage, many half-naked and moaning in pain.

"The Sari club is gone. You can smell the bodies of those who died," one local photographer said. A police officer said it was difficult to identify victims. "They have been completely charred," he said. *Reports from AP, Reuters and AFP*



POLICEMEN and emergency workers inspect the ruins in Bali. Another blast hit the Philippine consulate in Manado (inset map). AP

MINOR damage has been reported at the Philippine consulate following a bomb attack on Saturday. REUTERS

Suddenly, resort island becomes raging inferno

From page A1

rounding shops, blowing out windows in a 500-meter radius.

"There are charred and mangled bodies everywhere, it is unbelievable," said French photographer Cyril Terrien at the scene. "I have never seen such an appalling thing in my life."

"It is still burning. From where I was, I saw burned and mutilated bodies, this is really difficult to describe. The bodies of Indonesians and foreigners are lying side by side."

"People are stumbling around in the road as if they are in a trance. There were many people in this place because the Sari Club was one of the most popular nightspots here," said Terrien.

He said the local rescue services were totally overwhelmed by the scale of the carnage and struggled to ferry the injured to hospital around 15 kilometers away in the Bali capital of Denpasar.

Ansel said hundreds of tourists fled their hotel rooms and spent the night on the beach with their belongings. Others camped out in hotel lobbies.

Australian tourist Rachael Hughes, 18, said she and her boyfriend had just arrived when the blast occurred, smashing the window of their hotel room.

"Standing in the foyer of the Bounty Hotel, people were just walking in, blood dripping off them, burns to their face, skin coming off them.

"It was really a terrible sight. You could just hear people crying up in the Bounty foyer—obviously they have lost loved ones or friends."

The blaze was still burning fiercely as the sun rose on the shell-shocked island, which had until now managed to escape the violence that has wracked Indonesia since the fall of dictator Suharto in 1998.

The authorities on the island were now bracing for an exodus of tourists. "I am going to the airport. I want to take the first flight out, I can't stay here any more," said Ansel.

The Sari Club was a mass of smoldering ruins yesterday. Other nightspots around it—discos, restaurants and a hotel—had their roofs blown in and walls smashed.

Scenes of terror

Witnesses described scenes of terror immediately after the explosions. Bloodied survivors fled the bar, some with limbs blown off. Cars and motorbikes on the road in front were alight, forming a wall of flames blocking people's escape.

"Some poor bugger was laying right on the corner and one of his legs was gone . . . He was quite coherent, he was just saying, 'What's going to happen to me?'," said Bruce Baker, a tourist from Australia's Gold Coast. "I said to him, 'You'll be right, mate, someone will come'."

Another survivor, who was next to the Sari Club at the time of the explosion, said that "people were fleeing, yelling, screaming, asking for help."

Richard Hechnier, 29, from the Australian city of Perth, said the blast was caused by a car bomb.

"I saw people on fire. Many people were carrying others. Most were bleeding. Everything was on fire. It was chaos. It was dark except for the flames," Hechnier said.

He said he later returned to the scene to see if he could help and was horrified by what he saw.

"There were bodies all over the floor of the bar. So many bodies were just black mounds, some were red," Hechnier said.

An American visitor, Amos Libby, 25, said he was walking past the bar when the explosion happened.

"It lifted me off my feet. All the buildings in the vicinity just collapsed, cars overturned and debris from the buildings fell on them," he said. "People I met two to three days ago are never going to go home. I have never seen anything so horrible. There were so many people, 18 to 20 year olds, people in pieces all over the street."

Robert Detti, 33, an electrician from San Clemente, California, was asleep in his hotel behind the Sari bar when the bomb exploded.

"My bed was thrown into the air. The roof of my hotel collapsed. I escaped and ran to the club. People were on fire and running around," he said.

Danoe Winston, 33, from New Zealand, said he saw "people without arms and legs but they were still alive on the footpath next to the club."

Other witnesses said many victims had been decapitated by the blast.

As daylight broke on the normally tranquil holiday resort, blood still splattered walls and the roadway. A leg was on a nearby roof. A charred hand was on a sidewalk. Shoes and sandals were scattered across a road. *Reports from AFP, AP and Reuters*

Nobel Prize rebuff of US war policy

From page A1

"decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development." But it dropped subtlety when its chair, Gunnar Berge, said that "with the position Carter has taken, the award can and must also be seen as criticism of the line the current US administration has taken on Iraq."

It made the point that in a situation "currently marked by threats of the use of power, Carter has stood by the principles that conflicts must as far as possible be resolved through mediation and international cooperation based on international law, respect for human rights, and economic development." It cited Carter's initiatives that led to the 1978 Camp David peace accords between Egypt and Israel. The accords ended the state of war between Israel and Egypt, leading to the Israeli withdrawal from Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Carter's criticism of the Bush administration's policies on human rights in response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, on the United States, on Iraq and Israel, and on foreign relations was apparently not lost on the Nobel committee. In an article published by the Washington Post last month, Carter warned that a unilateral war on Iraq was not the answer to the crisis. He said UN action was needed to force unrestricted inspections of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. He criticized the administration for "disavowing US commitments to laboriously negotiated international accords," for failing to support substantive negotiations in the Middle East and for supporting Israeli action in occupied territories.

No softening

Carter's criticism has been more scathing than those of his Democratic party mates in Congress, most of whom backed—albeit with tame reservations—a resolution authorizing Bush to go to war on Iraq at any time he chooses if Saddam refuses to disarm.

The Nobel committee pointedly announced the award as Congress passed the resolution with broad bipartisan support, which conveyed the solidarity of the American people behind Bush. The award, however, did not seem to have softened Bush's position, which is to ask the UN Security Council to pass a tough resolution demanding that Iraq disarm, and allowing the United States to take military action, with or without allies, if Saddam frustrated UN weapons inspectors from doing their job.

A Bush administration official said the Nobel committee chair's view would have no effect on the administration's policy on Iraq. The Nobel's view was, however, shared by the Canadian foreign minister, Bill Graham, who said the award should be considered the "very position how we would like to see the United States behave in world affairs." Canada, which backed the US-led invasion of Iraq in 1991, under the cover of a Security Council resolution, is lukewarm to military action without UN mandate.

Armed with the congressional resolution, through which Congress has ceded its power to declare war to the president even before the United States has been attacked, the Bush administration has intensified its campaign to get a tough Security Council resolution that closes many options to diplomatic solutions.

Although the administration has scaled down the tone of its war rhetoric and has sought to broaden its diplomatic support for war, the White House continued to underline unilateral US approach. Art Fleischer, the White House press secretary, said that, "If the UN fails to act, we will work with our coalition."

Cowboy language

Except for Britain, whose prime minister, Tony Blair, has given Bush's war policy the rhetorical elegance that escapes the US president's coarse, cowboy language, it is not clear who will join Bush's "coalition."

US officials count on Poland, the Czech Republic, Spain, Italy and Australia as possible allies in the coalition, but Bush's policy is opposed by powerful nations and allies that backed the United States in the 1991 Gulf War.

France, Russia, Canada, Germany and China have expressed opposition to military action without a UN mandate. The US congressional resolution may indicate broad bipartisan support for Bush's war policy, but this can only impress US domestic public opinion and cannot stampede the big powers, with veto power in the council, into going to war without UN mandate and on terms determined by Washington. The Bush administration tends to forget that major European powers are not states of the American federal union.

France, Canada and Japan, all US allies in the Gulf War, have indicated that they will consider participation in an attack on Iraq only if it is backed by a UN Security Council resolution. Even the US allies in the Middle East, who detest Saddam—including Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Kuwait—are reluctant to participate in military action unless authorized by the United Nations.

The opposition in the United Nations to a US attack on Iraq is based on the sentiment that war is not the action of first resort. It should be taken only after all diplomatic options have failed. The battleground for these two contending approaches has shifted to the Security Council, where debates on the US draft of a tough resolution, begin this week. The debates will show how far Bush's bullying will go. If the United States intensifies pressure on council members, treating them as though they were representatives in Capitol Hill, he won't get the coalition that will give him the political legitimacy to attack Iraq. It is this legitimacy that Bush needs most.

US troops arrive for war games

From page A1

Vision 02," a two-week training exercises with Filipino soldiers. The exercises, which start today, will also take place in Ternate town in Cavite; Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija; and Crow Valley in Capas town in Tarlac.

The training exercise, which ends on Oct. 28, is designed to improve the participants' special skills and exchange techniques in staff planning, aviation, light armor operation, jungle survival and artillery firing, according to US Marine officials.

In a statement, the US Marine officials said the Talon Vision was not directly connected to previous exercises. "It is being conducted as a result of an invitation extended by the Philippine government in early 2001," they said.

More than 1,000 US troops recently held training exercises with Filipino soldiers in Zamboanga City and Basilan aimed at upgrading the skills of Filipino soldiers in fighting Abu Sayyaf bandits. Washington has linked the Abu Sayyaf to the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden, alleged mastermind of last year's Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington.

Two of several groups battling the military—the Abu Sayyaf and the communist New People's Army (NPA)—have been blacklisted by the United States as "foreign terrorist organizations."

The US Marines arrived a day after the Abu Sayyaf killed 11 Filipino soldiers and wounded 26 others on Jolo Island, in the heaviest fighting in recent months in Mindanao.

In early October, a US soldier and two Filipino civilians were killed and more than 20 injured in a bomb attack in Zamboanga City, which the military also blamed on the Abu Sayyaf.

The NPA has also stepped up its offensive in recent weeks, attacking police stations in two provinces and stealing dozens of rifles from their armories.

The Abu Sayyaf claims to fight for an Islamic homeland in Mindanao but engages mainly in kidnap-for-ransom activities. The group is holding three Indonesian seamen and four female Jehovah's Witnesses.

The NPA has been fighting for a Marxist state for more than three decades and operates across the country. *With reports from Reuters*

Indon gov't ignored threats . . .

From page A1

voice to the chorus Sunday, claiming that rumors had swirled through Parliament for days that there could be a terror attack if the United States went to war against Iraq.

"I believe the Indonesian intelligence has been warned about this," said Alvin Lie, a member of the moderate National Mandate Party. "I have no information about what they have done. I feel the Indonesian government has been too slow in acting to prevent such incidents."

Security officials in Malaysia have privately called neighboring Indonesia "a black hole" in counter-terrorism, failing to make arrests of suspected leaders and unable to find explosives that al-Qaida operatives are believed to have stockpiled.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the bombing, but such a lethal attack targeting foreigners is unprecedented in the years of intermittent violence that have plagued the chaotic nation.

Last week, Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong of Singapore and Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said that they felt that Prime Minister Megawati Sukarnoputri's government was coming to grips with the problem.

But the United States and Indonesia's neighbors have urged Jakarta for months to pass an anti-terrorism law that has been languishing in the Parliament. Without the law, Indonesia says, security forces cannot arrest suspects without clear evidence they have committed a crime.

Arrests

In Malaysia and neighboring Singapore, police have arrested scores of suspects allegedly involved with a Southeast Asian militant group, Jemaah Islamiyah, that hopes to create an Islamic state in Malaysia, the southern Philippines, and Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim country.

The group, linked to al-Qaida, was allegedly plotting last winter to launch a series of bomb attacks against the United States, British and Australian embassies and other Western targets in Singapore.

Malaysia and Singapore are holding the suspects without trial under national security laws dating from the British colonial era.

Among those detained in Malaysia is Yazid Sufaat, who allegedly allowed two of the Sept. 11 hijackers to meet al-Qaida operatives at his apartment in 2000.

Yazid is accused of obtaining four tons of ammonium nitrate, the same agricultural chemical used in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. Malaysia was able to trace the ammonium nitrate as far as the Indonesian island of Batam in January, but it has never been found.

Fears about the location of the ammonium nitrate resurfaced around the time of the Sept. 11 anniversary, when the United States closed many of its diplomatic missions in Southeast Asia. Among the threats cited were truck bombs.

The Australian Embassy in East Timor was closed last month in response to similar threats.

Security officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, have said that with protection at embassies becoming strengthened, easier-to-strike targets like civilians and business could be attacked.

Jemaah Islamiyah

Indonesia's neighbors have pressed Jakarta to deal with Abu Bakar Bashir, a radical cleric they say is a leader of Jemaah Islamiyah. Bashir, who lives freely and has sympathizers in Megawati's government, denies being involved with terrorism.

Australia is "convinced" that Bashir is involved with Jemaah Islamiyah but knows that there are "political sensitivities in Indonesia about this issue," Downer said last week at the East Asian Economic Summit, sponsored by the World Economic Forum.

Indonesian leaders say that in their nascent democracy—which shook off decades of dictatorship in 1998—the security services can no longer simply arrest people without evidence of committing a crime.

Underlying their claims is the fact that the security forces have been unable to come to grips with—and are occasionally accused of triggering—ethnic and religious civil warfare that has bedeviled parts of this huge archipelago for years. *AP*

NBI baffled: Palace picks 2 for No. 2

From page A1

highest post—and nobody knows how it happened.

The only thing that is certain: The elite agency's ranks are confused and demoralized.

The Palace made permanent the appointment of Fermin Nasol as NBI assistant director in a letter dated Sept. 9.

Nasol is scheduled to take his oath at 2 p.m. Wednesday, according to the letter from Constancia de Guzman, Palace appointments secretary.

But sources at the NBI said lawyer Lolito Utitco was set to take his oath tomorrow.

"Definitely, the confusion created by these appointments will demoralize the rank and file," an NBI official said.

Utitco is currently deputy director for Special Investigation Services (SIS), the position vacated by Nasol when he was tapped to replace Assistant Director Diego Gutierrez who died early this year.

Confirmation

Yesterday, a top NBI official confirmed that Utitco had indeed been appointed assistant director. He said Utitco and Nasol were among the four officials recommended by Director Reynaldo Wycoco. The two others were Deputy Directors Nestor Mantaring for Administrative Services and Filomeno Bautista for Technical Services.

"Politics should not really get in the way," the official said. "People should be promoted on the basis of their performance."

Another official said there was widespread speculation that Utitco would get the second highest NBI post because he supposedly enjoyed the backing of Wycoco and Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

He said he and other officials feared that the mild-mannered Nasol would be reappointed SIS chief.

If that happened, he would again join Deputy Directors Mantaring, Bautista, Anthony Liongson (Intelligence Services), Alejandro Tenerise (Comptrollership), and Samuel Ong (Regional Operations Services).

Utitco is due to retire in 2004, and Nasol two years later.

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October 14, 2002 - Monday	
8:30 am	Opening Ceremony/ Invocation/ Philippine National Anthem/ Welcome Remarks/ Conference Overview
9:00 am	Keynote Address: *Hon. Bayani Fernando*, Chairman Metro Manila Development Authority
9:30 am	Break
10:00 am	Knowledge Management: Changing the Standards of Competition, *Tan Kim Leng*, Expert Asian Productivity Organization and Managing Partner, Knowledge Drivers International (Asia)
11:00 am	Understanding Knowledge Management *Prof. Serafin Talisayon* Technology Management Center-University of the Philippines and KM Columnist, Business World
12:00 nn	Lunch
1:00 pm	Juran Awards Ceremony
1:30 pm	Implementing a Knowledge Management System to Establish a Knowledge Based Government-A Filipino Experience *Ms. Janette Toral* Founder, Philipine Internet Commerce Society and Site Owner, Digital Filipino. com
2:30 pm	Leveraging Knowledge for Competitive Advantage: A KM and Business Excellence Models (MBNQA, PQA) *Dr. Luis Ma. Calingo* Examiner, Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award
3:30 pm	Break
4:00 pm	Miguel Unson Award Ceremony
4:30 pm	Knowledge Management in an SME *Mr. Gerardo V. Cabochan, Jr.* Managing Director, CVC Supermarket, Inc.
5:00 pm	Integration

October 15, 2002 - Tuesday	
8:30 am	Recap of Day 1 Proceedings
9:00 am	Leading, Motivating and Supporting the Workforce of the New Knowledge Economy; Career Planning and Development in a Knowledge-Based Economy * *Mr. Gerry Plana* * *Ms. Myrna G. Reyes* * *Mr. Ernie Espinosa*
10:30 am	Break
11:00 am	Panel Open Forum
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm	Beginning a Journey to Knowledge Management *Ms. Angelina M. Roque*
2:30 pm	Establishing an Infrastructure for Knowledge Management *Mr. Fred Macutangay* Country Manager Lotus Software Group IBM Philippines Inc.
3:30 pm	Break
4:00 pm	Eliminating Knowledge Gaps through E-learning *Mr. Robert Poynter* Chief Executive Officer-Multinational Training Services, SMARFORCE
5:00 pm	Integration and Closing Ceremonies

For further information, please write or call:

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RP embassies told to take precautions

From page A1

precautions following Saturday's bombing of the consulate in the central Indonesian city of Manado, which caused minor damage, and the deadly car bomb explosion on Bali.

"We denounce these attacks on our consulate and the other bombing incidents in Bali," Ople said in a statement. No Filipino was reported killed or wounded in the attacks.

The deadly explosion at a Bali nightclub and a second one near a US consular office in Bali's capital of Denpasar came a few hours after a small homemade bomb broke three window panes at the Philippine consulate in Manado on Sulawesi Island, about 2,160 km northeast of Jakarta.

The Department of Foreign Affairs said the bomb was hurled by unidentified men and landed just outside the consulate's gate at about 6:45 p.m. No injuries were reported, but Indonesian police "later reported finding traces of blood at the scene and have thus alerted area hospitals accordingly," the DFA reported.

Indonesian officials said it was not immediately clear if the attack was related to the blasts in Bali.

The bombing was the second on Philippine property in Indonesia in recent years. A car bomb exploded two years ago in front of the Philippine ambassador's residence in the capital, Jakarta, killing two people and injuring dozens, including Ambassador Leonides Caday.

The motive for the attack on the Philippine consulate is unclear. Tension between the two countries rose recently when hundreds of Indonesians demanded the release of an Indonesian citizen convicted in Manila for illegal explosives possession.

Agus Dwikarna and two other Indonesian men were arrested March 14 as they arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport from Bangkok for what they said was a business meeting.

The other two men were later released, but Philippine police officials said Dwikarna was found carrying a C-4 plastic explosive. He was convicted in July and received a sentence of 17 years in prison.

Police have said Dwikarna was a member of the Jemaah Islamiyah, a Southeast Asia-based group that is suspected of links to al-Qaida and allegedly planned to attack Western targets in Singapore earlier this year.

Philippine intelligence agents also detained four Indonesians in anti-terrorist raids in General Santos City last month. Officials said one of the four allegedly helped plot bomb attacks that killed 15 people in General Santos in April. *With a report from AP*

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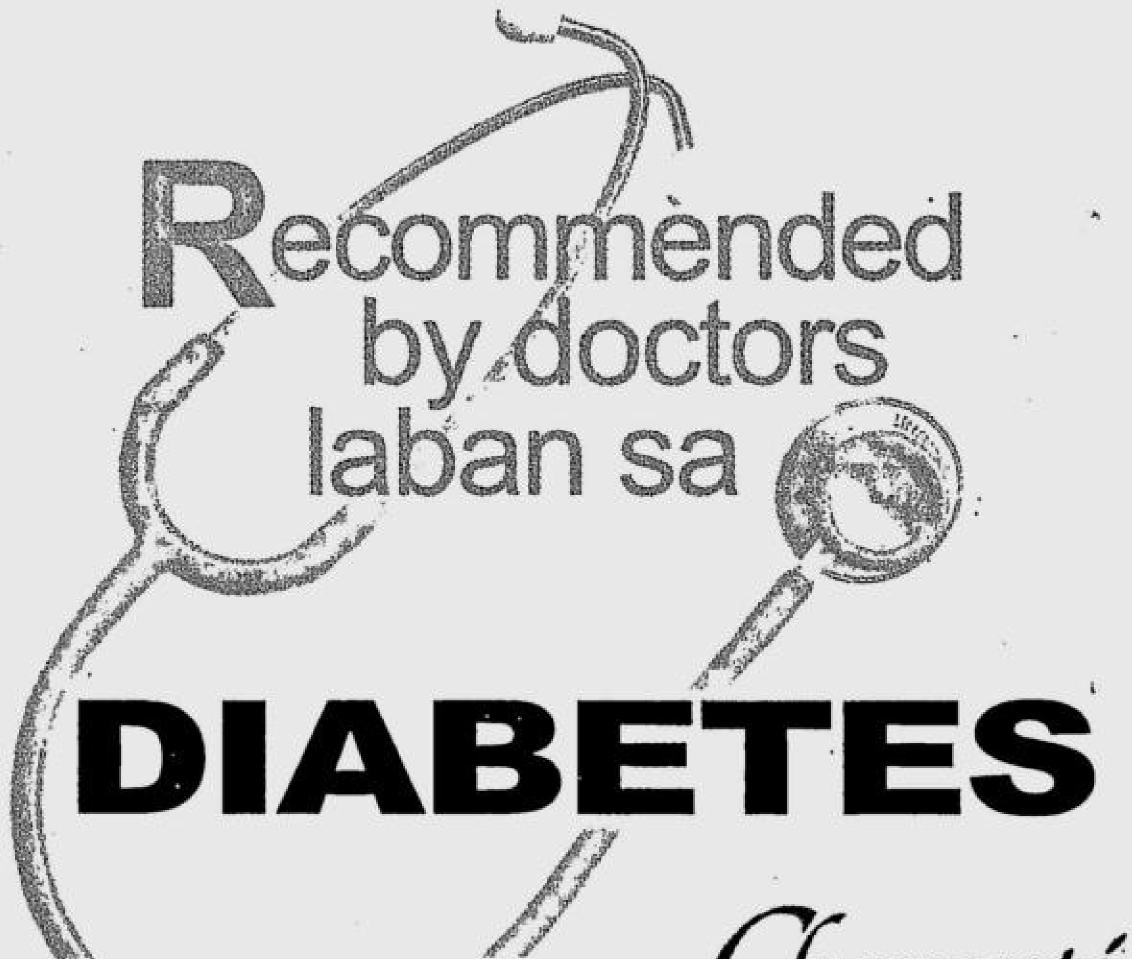

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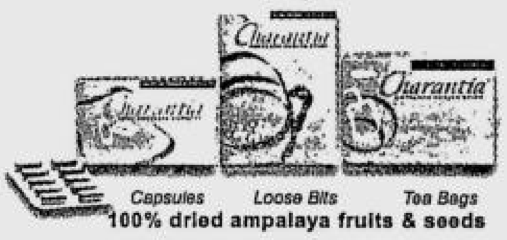

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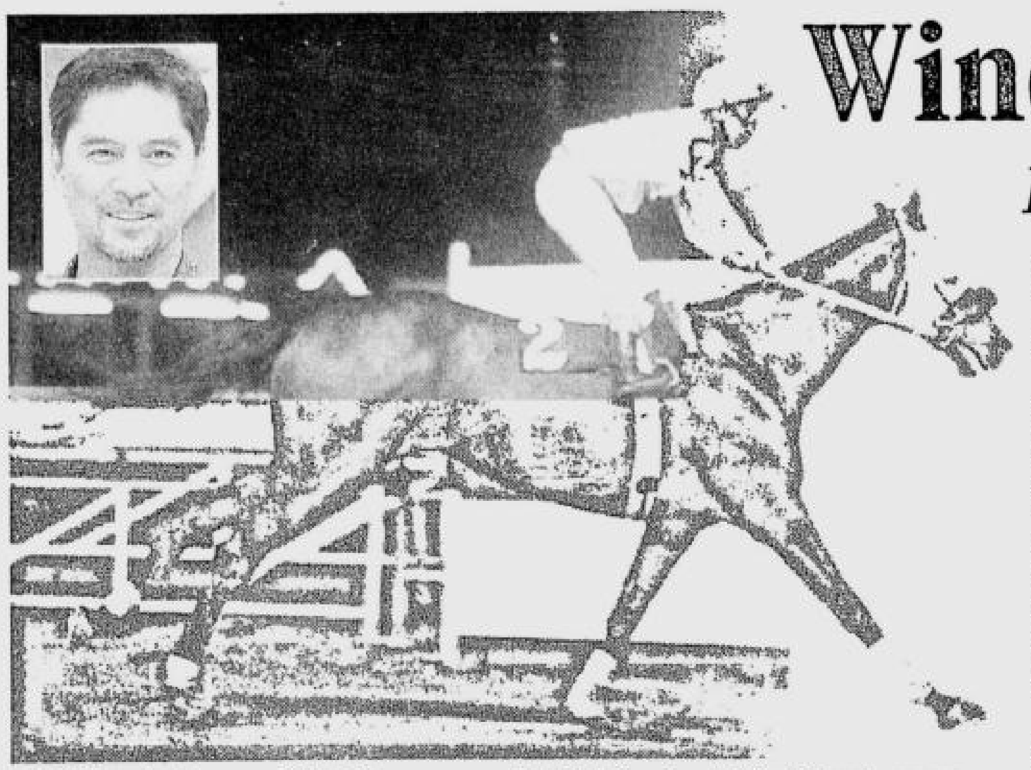
Many Happy Returns

Wind Blown breaks record

Hermie Esguerra donates ₱3M to CSFI


RAQUEL takes it easy as Wind Blown crosses the finish line. Inset, Wind Blown's owner Hermie Esgerra.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

By Edwin Villanueva

A GOOD horse for a good cause. Champion galloper Wind Blown won the inaugural Speaker Joe de Venecia Cup in record fashion last night to capture the P600,000 first prize at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

Immediately after the 2,050-meter race, Wind Blown's owner Hermie Esguerra announced that he would donate half of his horse's earnings yesterday to the Congressional Spouses Foundation, Inc., organizer of the "Race for Life" fund-raising racefest.

"*Basta* it's for a good cause, Wind Blown will always be available for such races," said Esguerra, who received the Cup from no less than race honoree Speaker De Venecia himself.

"We would like to congratulate and thank Mr. Esguerra for his noble gesture," said De Venecia, whose wife Gina is the CSFI chairperson.

Wind Blown, the country's foremost galloper, ripped through the race in 2:09 and 4/5, clicking off rapid-fire fractions of 25-24-26-26.5-28.5, to set a new record over the seldom-used distance.

"*Inalalayan ko lang dahil nga* 61 kilos *ang dala pero ayaw paawat eh*," said winning rider Fernando "Dhunoy" Raquel Jr.

Lyonnais checked in four lengths behind Wind Blown, while Staunch Ally, the early pacesetter, arrived third and last. Batangas Entry was scratched.

Wind Blown (Hazm-Wind in My Hair) took the lead for good nearing the far turn, giving Raquel the luxury to look for the opposition over his shoulders as his mount storms to the payoff wire.

"Hopefully, we'll prepare Wind Blown for the Marho Breeders' Cup and after that, *baka* Presidential Gold Cup *na*," added Esguerra, who only a week back scored a 1-2 finish through High Octane and Reigns Supreme in the 3rd Philtobo-Mitra Cup Juvenile Colts Championship.

Earlier in the day, Paolo Mendoza's San Diego Force topped the Deputy Speaker's Cup in wire-to-wire style, beating Al Baraq and Esguerra's Magical Mark over 1,425 meters.

All set for Ucap 7-stag derby

TODAY (Oct. 14) is the submission of official entries to the 5th Ucap Sir Vincent/Guts and Glory 7-Stag Derby at the Mandaluyong Coliseum.

Sponsoring the event are Sagupaan Super Foods, Pagcor and Washout Shampoo of Lakpue Drug Inc.

Entries will be accepted from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. and interested parties may contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341.

The two-day stagfest to be hosted by OPMI president Vic Yu and Bicol sportsman Alex Tang, is slated on Tuesday and Thursday, Oct. 15 and 17. Derby starts at 5 p.m. on Tuesday with around 70 fights on tap.

More than 40 powerhouse entries are expected to join this grand battle of bigtime cockers and breeders who belong to such respected organizations like Ucap, NCA, Balbina Group, Migba, GF-BAN, NGBA and LGBA.

Dal bags solo title

VETERINARIAN-breeder Dr. Hanzie Dal (HMD Nemont Warbreed) scored five straights wins to bag the solo title in the recently concluded 2002 CGBCA Annual 5-Stag Derby.

"I practice what I preach and now I have the record to prove that what I preach is true," said Dal, a Thuderbird Gamefowl specialist from Cebu.

Hosted by the Cebu Gamecock Breeders & Cockers Association, the event was held last Oct. 4 and 5 at the Mactan Tourist Sports Complex & Amusement Center and participated in by 67 of Cebu's toughest cockfighters.

Backed by handler-conditioner Junior Camaso, Dr. Dal for his feat will be crowned as the Breeder of the Year of CGBCA in an awarding ceremony to be held on Nov. 18 at the Mango Park Hotel in Cebu City.

NCA tilt on today

THE BIGGEST and most exciting NCA-7 Stag Derby will mark the final leg of the annual Stagwars 2002 series under the auspices of the National Cockers Association today at the Araneta Coliseum.

Selected stags screened by NCA, Ucap, Balbina, NGBA, CF and Migba are entered in the stag derby hosted by Louie Cua and Joseph Ty. Three-stag qualifying fights are billed tonight followed by the four-stag finals on Wednesday, Oct. 16. Champion cockers from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, including their counterparts from Metro Manila are taking part.

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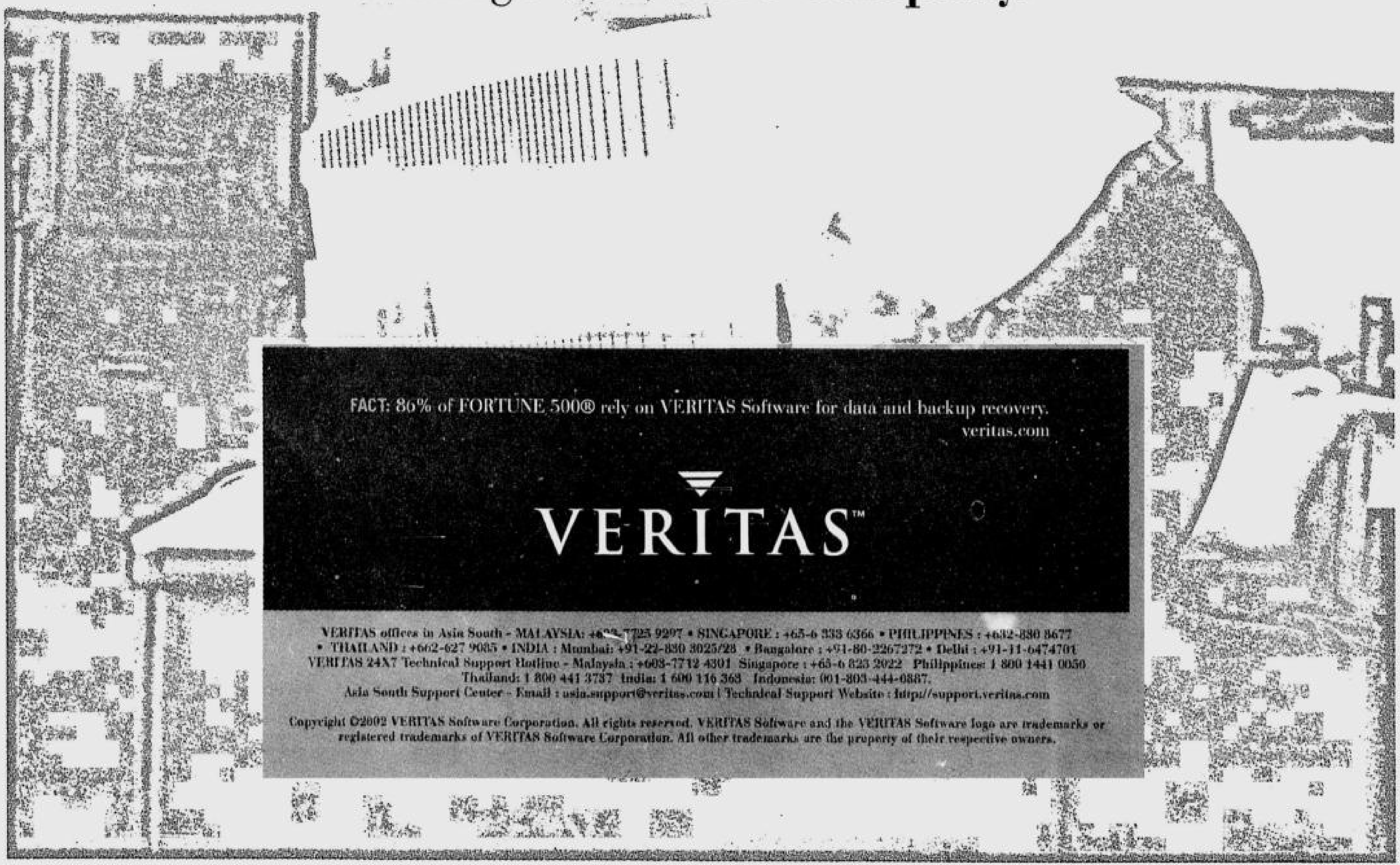

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SPORTSWATCH

Angels I win shy

ANAHEIM, California—John Lackey, in the first postseason start of his career, conceded only three hits in seven innings as the Anaheim Angels beat the Minnesota Twins 7-1 in Game Four of the American League Championship Series on Saturday. The victory gave the Angels a 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven series and put them in position to earn the AL pennant by winning Game Five on Sunday. Lackey retired 12 consecutive Twins from the third through seventh innings and finished with seven strikeouts. *Reuters*

Cardinals triumph

SAN FRANCISCO—Three St. Louis homers that just cleared the wall behind Barry Bonds in left field overcame his own prodigious shot into McCovey Cove and gave the Cardinals a 5-4 victory Saturday that cut San Francisco's lead to 2-1 in the NL championship series. Mike Matheny and Jim Edmonds hit solo homers that helped St. Louis shake off some early jitters and take a 4-1 lead. Eli Marrero then connected for a tiebreaking shot in the sixth inning in St. Louis' first at-bat after Bonds' blast. Game 4 is Sunday with San Francisco's Livan Hernandez pitching against Andy Benes. *AP*

Schumacher shines

SUZUKA, Japan—Michael Schumacher paced a Ferrari 1-2 finish Sunday and won his third consecutive Japanese Grand Prix to cap 2002 with his 11th triumph of the Formula One season. The five-time world champion started from pole position and covered 53 laps of the 5.821-kilometer (3.636-mile) Suzuka circuit in 1 hour, 26 minutes and 59.91 seconds to secure a podium finish for every race of the year. *AP*

Duval takes charge

LAS VEGAS—David Duval, showing signs he might ready to reclaim his spot among golf's best, shot a 9-under 63 Saturday in the Invensys Classic at Las Vegas to get in position for his first win since last year's British Open. Revitalized by the Ryder Cup and hoping to end a miserable year on a positive note, Duval made nine birdies and nine pars to take a one-shot lead over third-round leader Jim Furyk and Jeff Sluman going into the final round of the 90-hole event. It was his lowest round since the 2001 Tour Championship, moving Duval to 24 under through four rounds and leaving him excited about his prospects over the final 18 holes. *AP*

Olivarezes shine

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—Pablo Olivarez II edged Daniel Macallino 6-4, 6-4 in the boys' 14-under division and Renz de Villa 4-6, 6-4, 7-5 in the boys' 16-under class to become a double titlist at the close of the rain-marred 2002 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop. Edwin Olivarez Jr. completed the family domination following a 6-3, 6-3 victory past Raymarc Santiago to bag the boys' 12-under bracket in nearby San Pablo indoor courts in the Milo netfest.

ASIAD BASKETBALL

RP 5 loses bronze to Kazakhs

RACELA (left) loses his balance after being pushed by Kazakhstan's Strebkov. REUTERS

By Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—From almost a silver to nothing.

That's the story of the Philippine cagers as they bowed to Kazakhstan yesterday, 68-66, in the battle for the bronze medal in the Asian Games.

It was evident the Filipinos played wounded.

They lacked desire in battling the Kazakhs toe-to-toe, committing 16 turnovers against their opponents' 11, as the Filipinos returned to work just a day after they lost a won-game battle for the silver to South Korea (69-68).

Basketball

If this were a bar room brawl, none of the Filipinos ever threw a punch against bottle-smashing drunks.

They had a chance to redeem themselves, lift themselves from that Korean-made agony on Saturday, as they built margins of 10, 11 points several times.

But each time Kazakhstan made a move to rally, the Filipinos would give in—like meek lambs suddenly herded into domesticity.

The Filipinos sped to a 16-7 lead, increased that to 19-8 and 22-11, only to see it whittled down to 22-16 at the end of the first quarter.

When the Kazakhs, whose only advantage was their height as their playing style lacked creativity, rallied to post a 37-all deadlock at the half, the Filipinos started to lose heart.

The Philippines tried hard to recapture the fire and somehow managed to take the lead at 62-61 with still 5:31 left in the game.

But again, when Kazakhstan uncorked a 5-0 blast capped by a three-pointer by Vitaly Strebkov for a 66-62 bubble, the Filipinos wilted from there.

After that last of four triples converted for the night by Strebkov, who fired a game-high 30 points, the Filipinos ran into two successive turnovers through Asi Taulava and Kenneth Duremdes.

Still, the Filipinos kept their hopes alive when Eric Menk laid up on an assist by Jeffrey Cariaso that cut Kazakhstan's lead to 64-66, with under 25 ticks left.

But then, in the dizzying moments that ensued, Strebkov got away again to score an unchallenged basket underneath, 68-64, just 15 ticks remaining.

Although Taulava scored four ticks later on a Racela assist, Kazakhstan managed to waste away the remaining 8.2 seconds in the game for the final 68-66 count.

The victory avenged Kazakhstan's two losses to the Philippines in Bangkok in 1998, the second one costing the Kazakhs the bronze, 73-68, behind Jojo Lastimosa's 10-0 windup for the Filipinos.

In their first meeting, the Filipinos nipped the Kazakhs, 53-52, behind a free throw by Duremdes with 2.3 seconds left in the game.

"The game with Korea was just too close to this game," said coach Jong Uichico. "We were coming in from a highly emotional loss."

Uichico kept repeating he was sorry for the debacle as the Filipinos lost the bronze to the same team it beat for the same medal in Bangkok four years ago.

"I deeply apologize for this," he said. "I have no alibis, please.

But I did my best but my best was simply not enough. The boys did everything they could. It just wasn't enough."

He said the loss to Korea still affected his boys.

"We were almost there, but we just didn't have the luck," he said. "We concentrated on Korea because the game against Korea was the championship.

Forget about China as the Chinese are way up there."

For the first time in seven games, the Filipinos groped for form. They were almost rusty, shooting a mere 36.2 percent from a 25-of-69 clip.

They hit a bizarre 4-of-18 from three-point country for a dismal 22.2 percent shooting. Against Korea on Saturday, they did 41.7 percent on 10-of-24 from that same spot.

Uichico said he will rest for four days when he gets home to Manila.

After that, he said he will have his regular annual physical check-up.

"I haven't had my annual for two years now," said the 40-year-old Uichico. "I missed it again this year because of the task at hand.

Again, I thank everybody who put their trust in me. I'm sorry I disappointed them."

Scores:

KAZAKHSTAN 68—Strevkov 30, Issakov 16, Ovsyannikov 10, Yemel 4, Vdovin 4, Zakharchenko 3, Derbush 0, Murvayev 0.

RP 66—Cariaso 18, Taulava 15, Menk 13, Duremdes 8, Espino 5, Racela 5, Ildefonso 2, Hontiveros 0, Seigle 0, Hatfield 0, Castillo 0.

Quarters: 16-22, 37-37, 54-52, 68-66.

Wushu artists sparkle

By Roy Luarca

BUSAN, South Korea—Filipino wushu artists will go home with many medals, but sans the precious gold.

Sanshou fighters Marvin Sicomen and Rexel Nganhayna bowed to bigger, more experienced rivals yesterday and settled for silver medals in the 14th Asian Games here.

Sicomen, fighting in the 52-kilogram class, bowed to China's Yonggang Kang while Nganhayna yielded to Thailand's Chomphuphuang Sanchai, 2-1.

"They gave everything they had but their best was not enough," said coach Samson Co, himself a former world champion.

2 RP bets in marathon

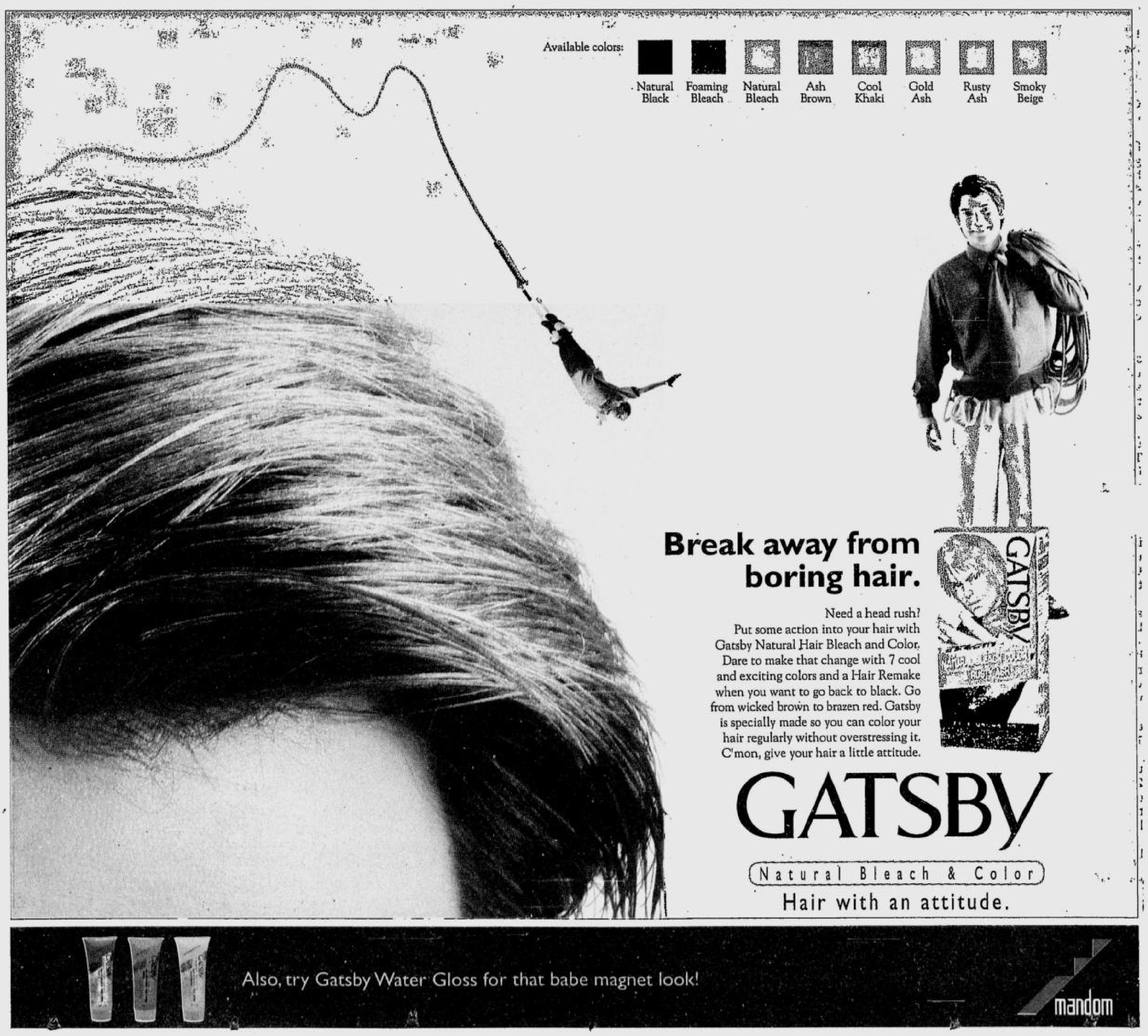
By Roy Luarca

BUSAN, South Korea—Veterans Allan Ballester and Roy Vence close the Filipino tracksters' campaign in the 14th Asian Games today when they take part in the men's marathon at the Asiad Main Stadium.

They aren't expected to win, but they are expected to go all out and at least break their personal bests, if not the Southeast Games records.

Their counterpart in the distaff side, Christabel Martes, saw action yesterday and wound up eighth among 11 entries.

The 23-year-old, 5-foot-6 Martes clocked 3 hours, 9 minutes and 48 seconds, way behind North Korea's Ham Pong Sil's winning effort of 2:33:35.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TANAMOR (left) connects with a jab against Kim. JESS YUSON

Tanamor takes silver medal

By Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—Light-flyweight Harry Tanamor fought injured in the last two rounds yesterday and lost the gold medal to a gritty South Korean in the Asian Games boxing competitions here.

The 24-year-old native of Zamboanga City scored a standing knockdown against Kim Ki Suk in the first round where he built a 7-4 margin as he raised hopes of another gold for the Philippines after the gold each from bowlers Paeng Nepomuceno and RJ Bautista and cue artists Django Bustamante and Nikoy Lining.

Tanamor went on to post a 10-8 bubble after two rounds and somehow looked ready to avenge the setbacks his seven teammates had suffered earlier.

But by unleashing furious punches in his desire to knock out the Korean, Tanamor reinjured the right hand that got hurt in his first ever fight here—against Myanmar's Kyaw Swar Aung.

It swelled going to the third round and the pain prevented him from continuing his attack, eventually losing his lead as the Korean took a 13-8 margin entering the fourth round.

The Korean exploited his advantage to the hilt, scoring at will at times against the helpless and hurting Filipino to win the gold, 21-18.

"Namaga ang kanyang kanang kamay uli kaya hindi na niya ma-isuntok (his hand swelled that's why he couldn't box anymore)," said coach Boy Velasco.

So confident was Kim of victory that he spent the last round dancing from harm's way amid Tanamor's desperate rally, snatching a 3-1 edge in the final tally.

Kim was the clear winner this time and the RP coaching staff headed by George Caliwan acknowledged this by dismissing hints Tanamor lost due tobiased officiating.

Lynching Lee

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—From now on, Shin Dong Pa is passé. Never mention his name again or you'll be guilty of sacrilege. SacriLEEdge, if you may.

How many Lees do you know? I bet there's plenty.

Me, I only know two. Ricky Lee, the brilliant fictionist and screenplay genius. Peter Lee, just the best cook in all of Ermita/Malate area; try his noodle house along Mabini St. and you will know what I mean.

Now I got three Lees in my diary, the latest entry being Lee Sang Min. I met him only two days ago. I talked to him. Interviewed him, really.

"I was just lucky," Lee said. "I knew time was running out. I had to do it."

He was damn right. Luck always plays a part in a game, especially if it's a close one. Such as the Philippines-South Korea game on Saturday.

With almost no time left, Lee fired the shot from nowhere. It found heaven—for South Korea. It gave hell—to the Philippine quintet.

With Lee's triple in a split second before the buzzer, South Korea won, 69-68.

Just by a point, but it meant like the whole world had caved in on the entire basketball delegation, the entire 218-man RP contingent to the 14th Asian Games.

Hey, this is basketball, the Vatican of Philippine sports.

Lee's shot shattered everything that coach Jong Uichico and his Filipino cagers had dreamed of: the silver medal in the Asian Games basketball competition.

Nobody cared about the gold. That's always been China's. But the silver?

It was all that mattered to the country. It would shine brighter than all of the 21 medals combined won by the country thus far.

The silver was just there, ready for the picking; but suddenly for the Filipinos, it became as if it was the forbidden apple that Adam had picked with no hesitation in the Garden of Eden.

Sinful it was to pluck it that's why we missed four charities in the dying ticks of the game?

Sinful it was to pluck it that's why we didn't give our remaining last two fouls in the dying seconds of the game?

Sinful it was to pluck it that's why Jong didn't call a timeout with us ahead in the last 23.9 seconds of the game?

We seemed to have a vise-like grip of it—until Lee came along to grab it.

Before he popped in the winning triple, Lee, who turn 30 on Nov. 11, was 0-for-4 from rainbow territory. He was 0-for-1 in the first quarter in 10 minutes of action, 0-for-2 in the second quarter in 5:45 minutes of action, and no attempt from there in the third quarter in 5:09 minutes of action.

Lee, who is not even taller than the 5-foot-11 Noy Castillo, was in the last quarter for only 5:54 minutes, but at the last tick of the game-clock that he was there, he did the equivalent of what the Japanese did to our heroes in Bataan: Give them the Death March. In chilly October.

Before Lee struck the killer blow for the Filipinos, he had earlier missed a similar triple in the fourth quarter. In short, he was 1-of-5 overall from the trey area, but his fifth attempt—an open shot as he successfully faked Asi Taulava and Olsen Racela out of his view—was all that the hosts needed to insult us.

The Filipinos were all set to party, with business tycoon Danding and wife Gretchen supposed to be at the head table of a banquet. Until Lee spoiled it.

Even Shin Dong Pa, the deadliest shooter ever from Korea who watched the game from ringside, commiserated with us.

"Lee destroyed everything that you had worked hard for," said Shin, whose hot hands in another era had inflicted us harm after harm but not as damaging as this one from Lee.

Lee was a gate-crasher as brutal as an Abu Sayyaf: A honeymoon was interrupted, the Mona Lisa decapitated, Mother Teresa raped.

Send in not the clowns but the mob. Have Lee lynched.

Death by hanging is too light a sentence.

Thais, Nokor prevail; Indian runner probed

By Phil Brown
AP Writer

BUSAN, South Korea—Thailand's sprinters stunned the Japanese. A North Korean woman won the marathon, one of their favorite races. Then Iran beat Japan 2-1 for the soccer gold medal.

India also suffered a blow at the Asian Games when its team leader was told a gold medalist's doping test had raised suspicions.

While Japan was suffering further Sunday from silver medals where it had hoped for gold, the host South Koreans had one of their best days at the games, collecting 11 golds in 42 finals and lifting their total to 92. They won three each in boxing and in the Korean martial art of taekwondo.

Japan had hoped to challenge host South Korea for second place in the medals race, behind China.

But with one day and seven events left, it was far back with 44 golds, after Kenji Takeya comfortably won the men's cross-country cycling race.

China had 149, including 10 from Sunday.

In the soccer final, Satoshi Nakayama scored Japan's lone goal in the closing minutes, quickly grabbed the ball from the net and rushed back to midfield, eager to start the push for an equalizer. But Iran held off the attack.

The Thais gained another prominent triumph by winning the men's 400-meter relay. Their first gold medal in athletics in 24 years followed Paradorn Srichaphan's tennis victory the previous day.

They also won two golds in the Chinese martial art of wushu and one in boxing.

It wasn't enough, however, to keep Uzbekistan from taking over fifth in the overall gold medals race, 15 to 14 ahead of Thailand. Uzbek boxers captured five golds, including those in the four heaviest weight classes.

Pakistan won its first gold here, in boxing, and Laos won its first medals of any color, two bronzes in wushu.

North Korea, often able to spring surprises because the nation is so reclusive, gained its ninth gold of the games when Ham Pong Sil won the women's marathon, more than a minute ahead of Japan's Harumi Hiroyama.

Ham wasn't completely unknown, however. She is Asian champion at 5,000 and 10,000 meters.

Aside from their boxing and taekwondo triumphs, the South Koreans beat Iran 25-18, 25-19, 25-23 for the men's volleyball gold, defeated Japan 45-34 for the rugby union title, and edged Kuwait 22-21 for the men's handball championship.

They also won in badminton mixed doubles and the modern pentathlon men's relay.

adidas 14th Asian Games medal tally

COUNTRY	G	S	B	TOTAL
China	148	81	73	304
South Korea	92	77	81	250
Japan	44	71	70	185
Kazakhstan	20	26	30	76
Uzbekistan	15	12	24	51
Thailand	14	18	10	42
India	11	12	13	36
Chinese Taipei	10	17	25	52
N. Korea	9	11	12	32
Iran	7	14	14	35
Saudi Arabia	7	1	1	9
Malaysia	6	8	15	29
Singapore	5	2	10	17
Vietnam	4	7	7	18
Hong Kong	4	6	11	21
Qatar	4	5	8	17
Indonesia	3	7	10	20
Bahrain	3	2	2	7
PHILIPPINES	2	7	16	25
Kuwait	2	1	5	8
Sri Lanka	2	1	3	6
Pakistan	1	6	6	13
Myanmar	1	5	6	12
Kyrgyzstan	1	5	6	12
Turkmenistan	1	2	1	4
Mongolia	1	1	12	14
Lebanon	1	0	0	1
Tajikistan	0	2	4	6
Masau	0	1	2	3
UAE	0	2	1	3
Bangladesh	0	1	0	1
Syria	0	0	3	3
Nepal	0	0	2	2
Laosl	0	0	2	2
Jordan	0	0	2	2
Brunei	0	0	1	1
Yemen	0	0	1	1
Palestine	0	0	1	1

*As of 9 p.m

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1991, Marlo Bucad clocked 1:18:56 to win the 100 Plus-Fitness International Duathlon in Makati. Also today in 1992, Chiang Kai Shek College beat Lyceum, 69-65, to bag the seniors basketball title in the 23rd Women's National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament at the San Beda covered courts.

RP SKED IN BUSAN

Oct. 14, 2002
(Korea time, 1 hr ahead of RP time)

Athletics

3 p.m.—A. Ballester, R. Vence, marathon (finals)

Equestrian

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.—D. Cojuangco, M. Jaworski, A. Leviste, individual showjumping, finals

16 days to NBA opening on Oct. 30. Did you know that Utah's John Stockton once averaged a record 16 assists/game in a seven-game NBA Playoffs series against the Los Angeles Lakers in 1988?

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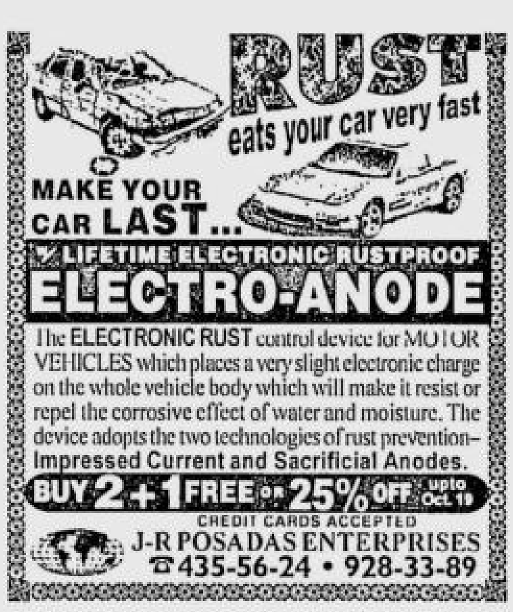

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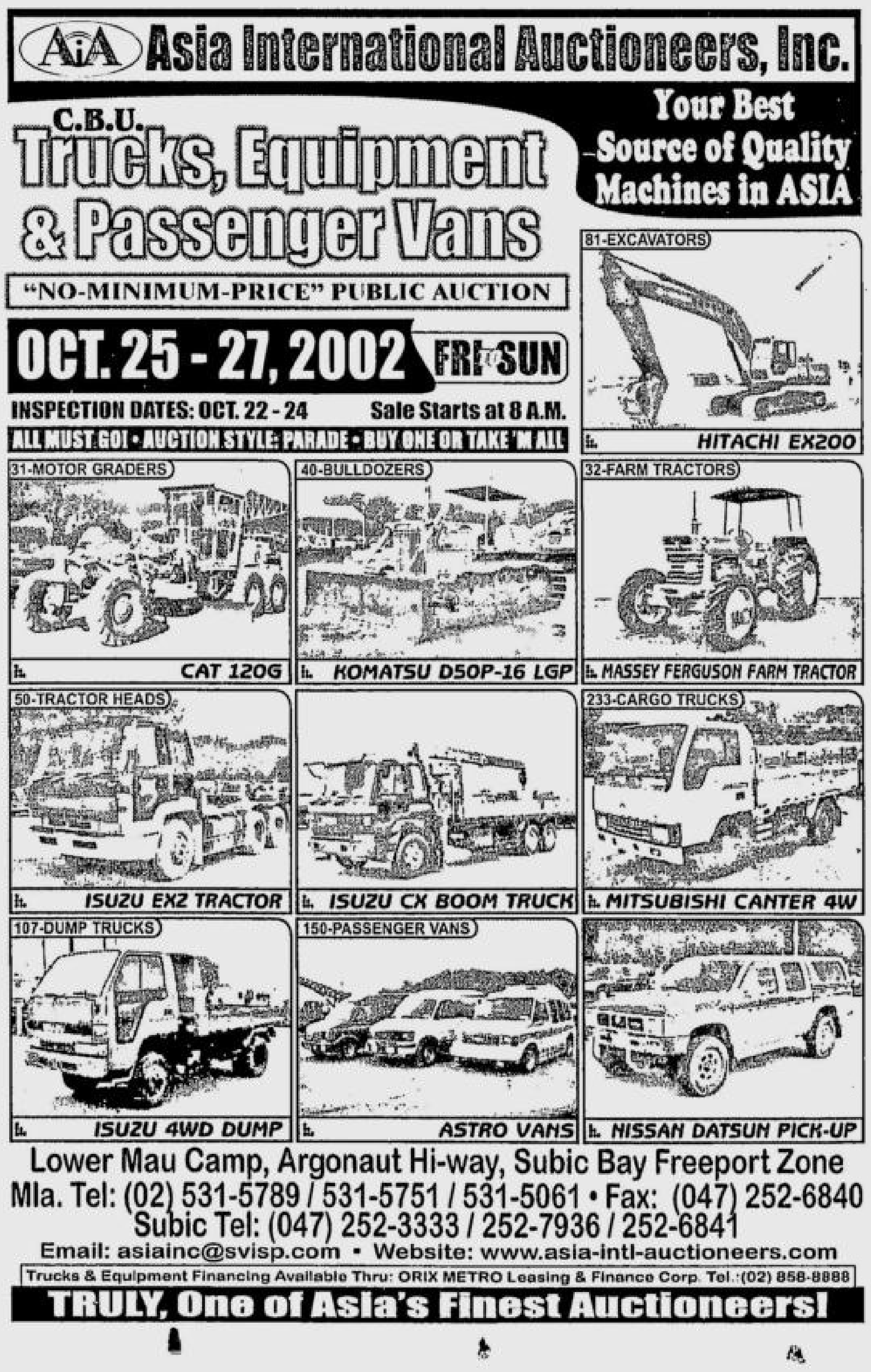

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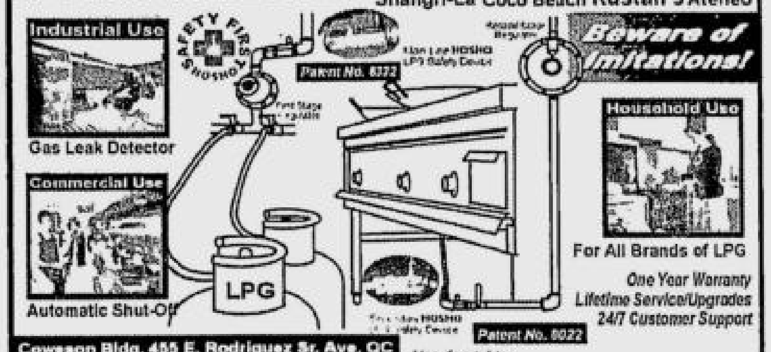

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ASIAN GAMES

RP wins 3 silvers, but loses basketball bronze medal

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor

BUSAN, South Korea—The Philippines lost the gold in boxing but that was nothing compared to the Philippines' shock defeat to Kazakhstan yesterday in the Asian Games basketball competitions here.

Even the day's haul of three silver and one bronze medals almost meant nothing as the Filipinos cagers, trying to salvage some pride after throwing away a won-game against South Korea on Saturday (68-69), bowed to the Kazakhs, 68-66, to lose ego more than the redemptive effects of a bronze win.

"I'm sorry, indeed, and I apologize for this defeat," said basketball coach Jong Uichico. "I have no alibis, except to say we were coming from a highly emotional loss."

The setback was more bitter than the one suffered by Harry Tanamor, who lost fair and square to Korean Kim Ki Suk in their light-flyweight battle for the gold medal.

14th Asian Games BUSAN 2002

The 24-year-old Tanamor took the first round, 7-4, and the second, 10-8, but an old injury he suffered in his first fight re-ocurred and lost the gold medal, 19-24.

But the defeat bettered the shutout suffered by the country's boxers in Bangkok four years ago as Tanamor became the lone medalist among eight boxers sent here with big help from Caltex Philippines.

"Tanamor was ahead at the start because he was 100 percent as a fighter," said coach Boy Velasco of Tanamor, whose silver surpassed the bronze won in 1998 by Eric Canoy. "But when his punching hand started to swell in the third, it was the end for us."

Smarter and stronger

Velasco and his fellow coaches Pat Gaspi and George Caliwan refused to blame officiating as Kim proved to be the smarter and stronger fighter.

Tanamor took consolation in the fact that he was the only fighter to survive Kim's knockout punches as the Korean won all previous fights by knockout.

Wushu's san shou fighters also settled for the silver as Marvin Sicomen and Rexel Nganhayna lost to China's Yonggang Kang and Thailand's Chomphuphuang Sanchai, respectively.

Arvin Ting won the country's lone silver yesterday in the men's changquan three events combined.

But the country found solace in the thought that it had already surpassed its 1998 showing of one gold, five silvers and 12 bronzes.

"I'm still proud of Team Philippines," said Eric Buhain, chair of the Philippine Sports Commission. "We had some losses but we scored some strides in other fields. Fair enough."

But even with its 25 medals—two golds, seven silvers and 16 bronzes—the country's chances of finishing higher than sixth among Southeast Asian nations appeared dim.

The Philippines will try to increase its medal haul today when it competes in the equestrian's individual jumping two days after the RP equestrian team won the silver behind powerhouse Japan.

Taekwondo's two remaining jins—feather Kalindi Tamayo and heavyweight Margarita Bonifacio—both dropped their first round assignments. Tamayo lost to Vietnam's Le Thi Nhung by superiority after a 2-2 tie, but Bonifacio was routed by Chinese Taipei's Wang Hsien, 5-0.

Sydney Olympian Toni Leviste, Mikaela Cojuangco-Jaworski and Danielle Cojuangco start action at 11 a.m. in the equestrian.

Allan Ballester and Roy Vence compete in the marathon at 3 p.m.

One day left

With one day left in the 16-day, 44-nation Games, the Philippines ranked 19th overall, behind Thailand at sixth with 14 golds, 18 silvers and 10 bronzes.

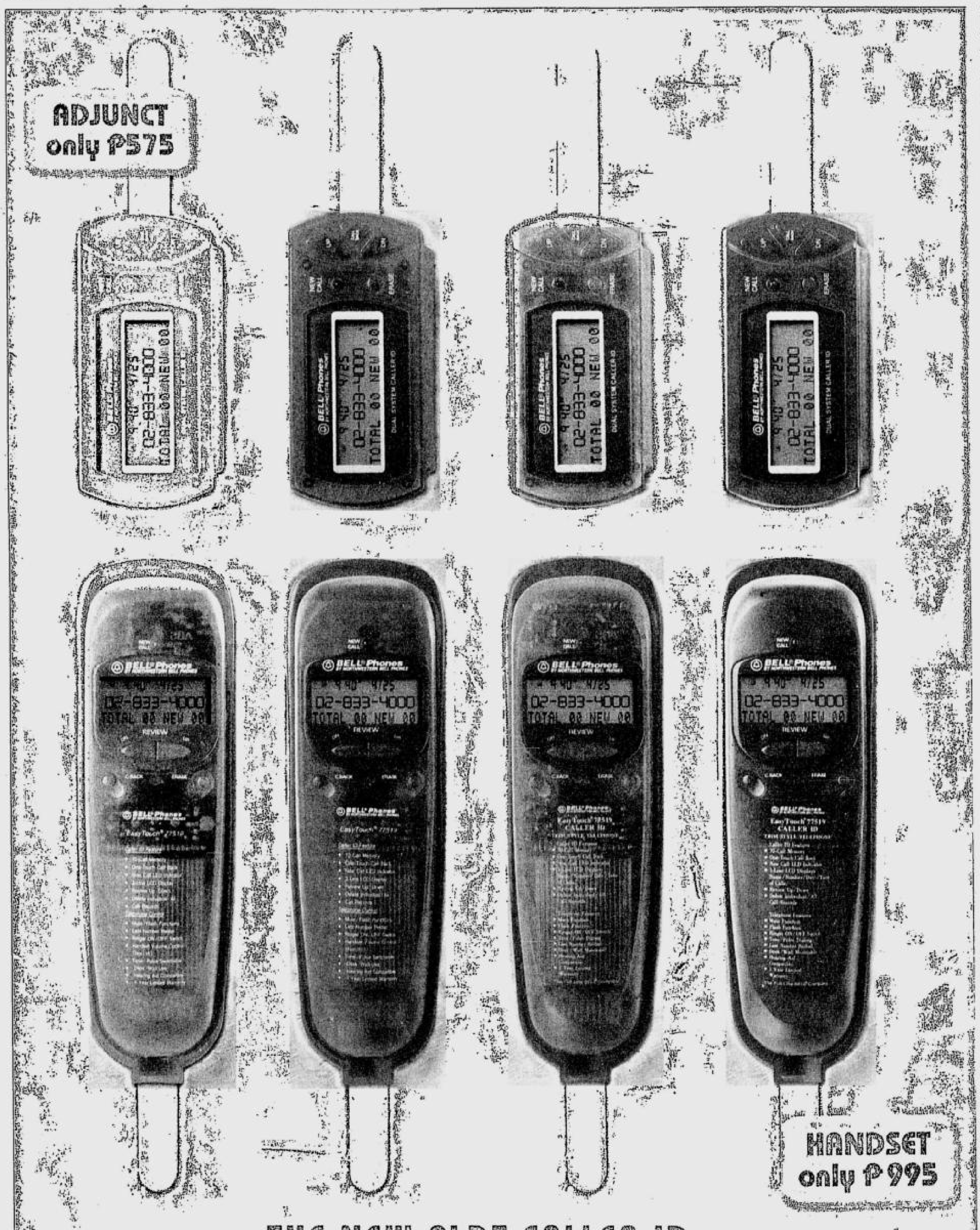
Malaysia was 11th with 6-8-15; Singapore 13th with 5-2-10, Vietnam 15th with 4-6-7 and Indonesia 17th with 3-7-10.

China was the undisputed winner with 148-81-73, followed by host Korea with 88-76-81 and Japan third with 44-71-70.

"Our athletes still deserve our praise," said Cito Dayrit, president of the Philippine Olympic Committee. "They tried their best, but the field is very tough. We made big progress in some events against our Southeast Asian rivals. This is a good sign considering that the next SEA Games will be next year in Vietnam."

But there were more setbacks somewhere. Christabel Martes injured her left hamstring and finished second to last in a field of nine in women's marathon while the 4 x 4 relay team of Ernie Candelario, Jimar Aing, Ronnie Marfil and Rodrigo Tanuan Jr. finished sixth in the finals with a time of 3:08.29.

Eusebio Quinones and Frederick Feliciano finished sixth and seventh in the mountain bike cross country while diver Ryan Rexel Fabriga placed fourth in the 10-m platform with 612,30 points.



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SEA tracksters behind in Asia, says Go Teng Kok /A27

We have met our Asiad target, says POC chief /A29

ASIAN GAMES

Gold medal completes Paeng puzzle

Team-up with RJ breaks jinx

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor

BUSAN, South Korea—Until he won his gold medal in the 14th Asian Games, Paeng Nepomuceno, the world's greatest bowler with over 110 career victories, said he always felt he was not a complete bowler.

"I've been playing for the last 32 years," said the 45-year-old Paeng. "I've won countless golds and received the highest sports awards. But this Asian Games gold has been missing from my collection."

The 6-foot-3, 200-pound Paeng is in the Guinness Book of World Records for various reasons, like being the only four-time World Cup champion in three successive decades, six-time world champion, winner of the IOC President's Trophy and the FIQ Bowling Athlete of the Millennium in 1999.

There is a 7-foot Paeng likeness displayed at the Bowling Museum of the International Hall of Fame and Museum, St. Louis, Missouri.

The winner of an unprecedented five PSA Athlete of the Year Award, Paeng is also the youngest TOYM awardee, and the first Filipino athlete to be bestowed with both the Philippine Legion of Honor (1999) and Presidential Medal (1984).

In winning his Asian Games gold, Paeng, whose best finish before this was a silver in the 1994 Hiroshima Games, had for company RJ Bautista in pocketing the men's doubles plum.

First left-handers

They recorded a first in the quadrennial Games by being the first left-handers to bag a bowling gold medal in the last three Asian Games.

Paeng and RJ scored 2714 to beat Japan's Isao Yamamoto and Seiji Watanabe by 44 pins and Koreans Kim Myoung-jo and Cho Namey and Chinese Taipei's Chen Chi-wen and Tsai Ting-yun by 51.

To commemorate their victory, organizers had Paeng's and RJ's winning hands printed for permanent display in the Medallists' Wall at the Athlete Village here.

Before his historic stint here that erased his jinx of not winning a gold in the Asian Games, Paeng said he's more relaxed now than before because he doesn't follow anymore the strict regimen he used to do.

"But that does not mean I'm retiring," said Paeng. "I'm still focused and determined. There are now many up and coming talents like RJ but still, I still dream of getting another shot at the World Cup crown."

Since Paeng captured the world by storm when he first won the World Cup in 1976 in Teheran at age 19.

The Manila-born Paeng, whose career was nurtured by his father, Angel, seemed destined to become "the greatest Filipino athlete of the century."

At 15, he was already the RP junior champion. At 17 he became the youngest PBC Open Masters king and at 19, he scored a Grand Slam by winning the PBC, Asian FIQ and World Cup crowns.

And yet, he first played gold before switching to bowling.

"It was an accident," he said of his change of sports. "I was only 12 then and Pappy (his father Angel) was teaching me to play golf at Baguio's Camp John Hay when it suddenly rained hard, forcing us to take shelter inside the bowling hall. I tried the sport for the first time and I immediately fell for it."

He said his impression on golf was it's for old people.

"*Ayaw ko sa* golf *dahil puro matatanda ang kalaban ko*," he said. "*Pagdating ko sa* Manila, I went to Coronado Lanes and joined the junior league. *Marami akong naging barkada roon kaya nawili na akong maglaro*."

For his part, RJ said he and his parents migrated to Toronto (Canada) in 1997. But luckily, said RJ, they did not get to like it there.

7 months

"I stayed for only seven months, my mom went home after 18 months and my sis and brod returned after three years," said RJ. Otherwise, *hindi na siguro ako nagbo*-bowling *at wala ako sa* national team *ngayon*."

The 24-year-old, 5-foot-6 RJ gained early success, too, since at 15, he won a bronze as part of the RP Team to the 1995 SEA Games. At 17, he got another SEAG bronze. A year earlier, he won the all-events silver in the Asian Youth Championships in Seoul.

"I'm so happy I won a gold medal in my very first Asian Games," said RJ.

Paeng and RJ praised their coaches Johnson Cheng and Purvis Granger for "their guts in pairing us in the doubles.

"*Matagal nilang pinag-isipan* but we're happy we were able to prove they made the right decision," said the two.

Paeng is actually coming back from a wrist surgery of two years ago. He said he would still suffer pains every now and then. But after winning his first gold in the Asian Games, Paeng felt more than relieved.

"I feel I'm as brand-new again," he said. "I guess that competitive fire in me will always be there."

The Inquirer in Busan

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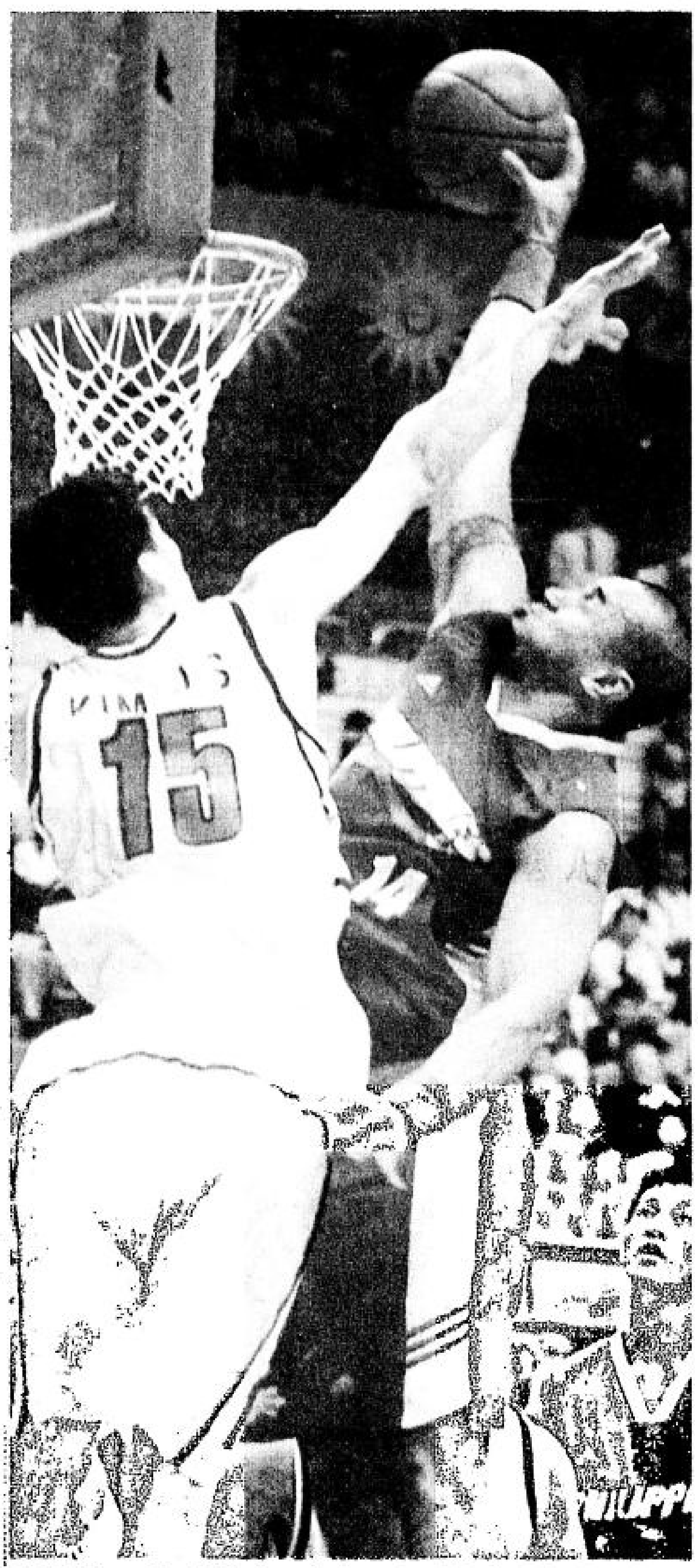

ASI Taulava of the Philippines dunks against Kim Joo Suk of South Korea during their basketball semifinal match last Saturday. The Koreans nipped the Filipinos, 69-68, on a buzzer-beating triple by Lee Sang-min. JESS YUSON

BASKETBALL HEARTBREAKER

The one that got away or how the silver was lost

By Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—With one minute, 17 seconds left Dondon Hontiveros fired a triple from the right side.

It found its mark.

The sparse Filipinos from the crowd, dominated by noisy Koreans, roused as one in cheering the shot that moved the Philippine quintet to within just a point of South Korea, 65-66.

After the Koreans missed the shot on the return play, Asi Taulava faked a drive to the left only to flick the ball to Olsen Racela. Racela wasted no time and fired a trey from left quarter court.

Basketball

Again, it found its mark. Again, the Filipinos cheered, this time more ear-piercing. Suddenly, after trailing for more than two quarters beginning late in the second canto, the Filipinos were ahead, 68-66. Only 51.2 ticks left.

The Koreans bungled their chance to equalize when they turned over the ball in the next possession with Racela grabbing the loose ball and getting fouled in the process.

Almost inexplicably, what was developing into a wholesome theatre turned into a horror movie. Racela missed two charities to stall the count at 68-66, with 23.9 seconds remaining.

That signaled the coming of the grim reaper.

With almost no time left, Lee Sang Min, who missed his first four attempts beyond the arc earlier, hit a triple from just an inch behind the key hole that became Korea's winning basket.

Suddenly, it was an execution and not a contest.

As Koreans cheered on top of their lungs, the stunned Filipinos and their coaching staff could not believe their eyes: 69-68 Korea up.

For what seemed like eternity, Hontiveros and Racela lay sprawled on the floor like kids having tantrums from not getting a lollipop from mom. Everyone from the Philippine bench looked lost, not knowing what to do or what to believe in.

In the dugout, tears, like wine in a party, flowed freely. The silver that shone like gold was gone.

When you come down to it, the setback was of the Filipinos' own undoing.

They missed four free throws in the dying ticks of the game, including two by Asi Taulava preceding the back-to-back triple by Hontiveros and Racela.

And the Filipinos lost by just one.

With seconds to go, the Filipinos had two fouls to give. They withheld them.

NOY Castillo (left) consoles Dondon Hontiveros following RP's sorry loss to South Korea. AP

And yes, with seconds to go, coach Jong Uichico had one timeout left. He withheld that too.

"I apologized for that," said Uichico for not calling a timeout before Racela went to the line. "It was a coach's decision. The Koreans have no timeout left and I thought calling a timeout would allow them to re-group.

"But on hindsight, I feel I should have called a timeout. Really my fault. I'm sorry I let you down. I'm sorry I let my country down."

But even then, it was a game not really meant to be won by the Filipinos as almost everyone of them seemingly tried his best to lose it.

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SEA tracksters behind in Asia, says Go

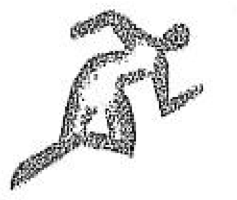
'RP entries have proven they deserve to be in Busan'

By Roy Luarca

BUSAN, South Korea—The medals did not come as he predicted, but athletics chief Go Teng Kok believes athletes were not total failures in the 14th Asian Games here.

"They've proven that they deserve to be here. Their performance showed that they are really are the best in Southeast Asian which is the main criterion set by the Philippine Olympic Committee, said Go.

"Eduardo (Buenavista) even surpassed two SEA Games records so there's nothing to be ashamed of."



Athletics

Go noted that the sudden unexplainable appearance of world-class tracksters from Middle East countries has made Asiad competition a lot tougher than it was four years ago in Bangkok.

"Even traditional powers like the Chinese, the Japanese and the Koreans were affected," said Go. "Now, Asian athletics is a wide open field."

Go insisted that his prediction of medals for Buenavista, John Lozada and Lerma Bulauitan did not come out of thin air but was based on detailed analysis of the comparative performances of athletes competing regularly in Asian meets.

Pulling out two pieces of bond papers, Go showed the times and performances of athletes submitted in the three legs of this year's Asian Grand Prix which is confined to Asia's best, and the Asian athletics championships held in Sri Lanka in August.

The papers showed that Buenavista should have placed second of third in the 5,000m and 10,000m, Lozada anywhere from third to sixth in the 800m and Bulauitan also third to 6th in women's long jump.

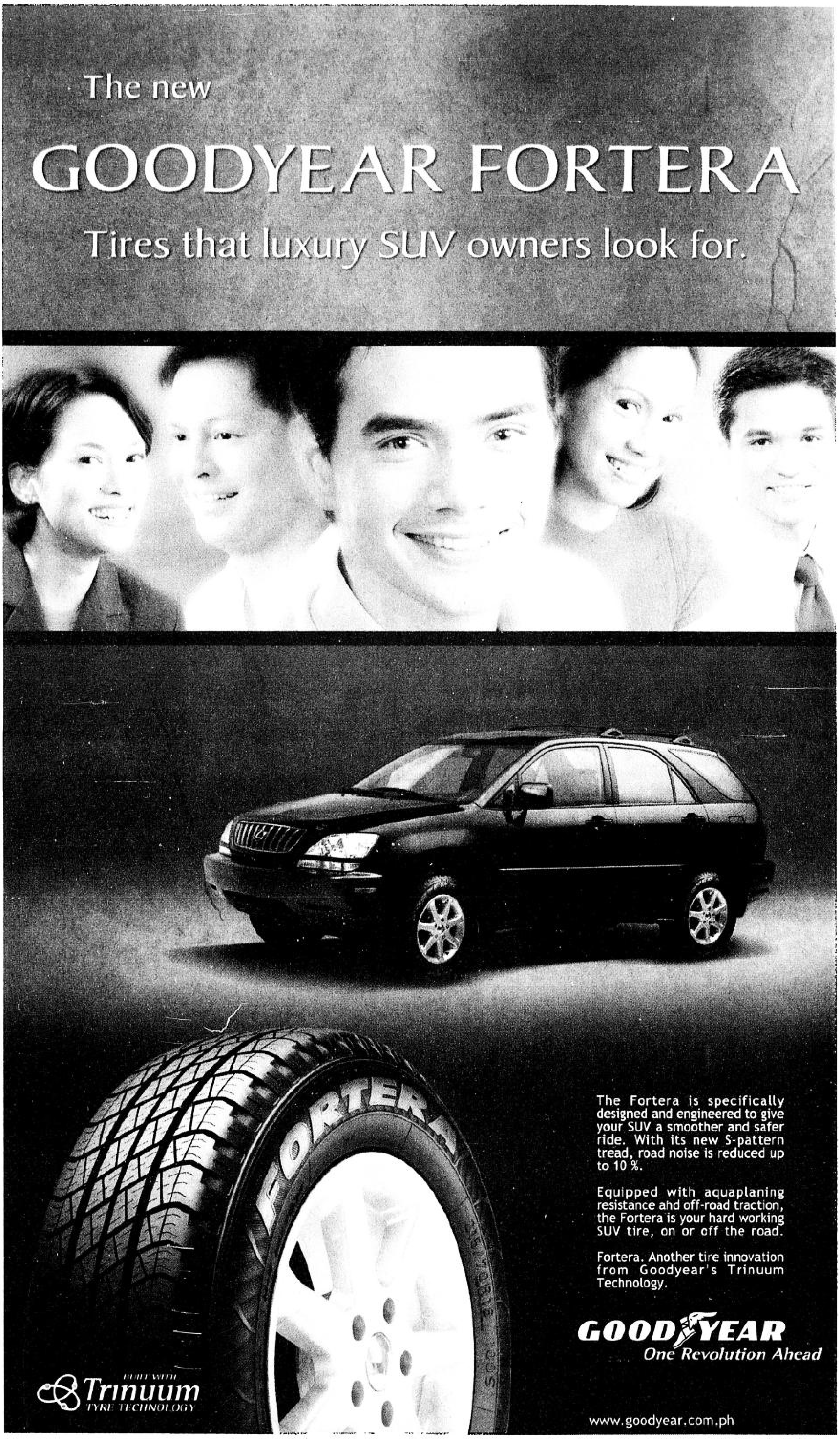
The thing is, when the middle-east countries submitted their Asiad entries, they carried unfamiliar names that even the Koreans, the Japanese and the Chinese were surprised.

As it turned out, they were competitors from European meets.

"Thus far, we can't hope to compete against them, really Southeast Asian standouts are way behind," said Go. "That's why I believe Buenavista and Lozada would be hard to beat in the 2003 Vietnam SEAG."

For now, he is content having proven that Filipino tracksters are indeed the region's best.

RP athletics chief Go Teng Kok. JESS YUSON



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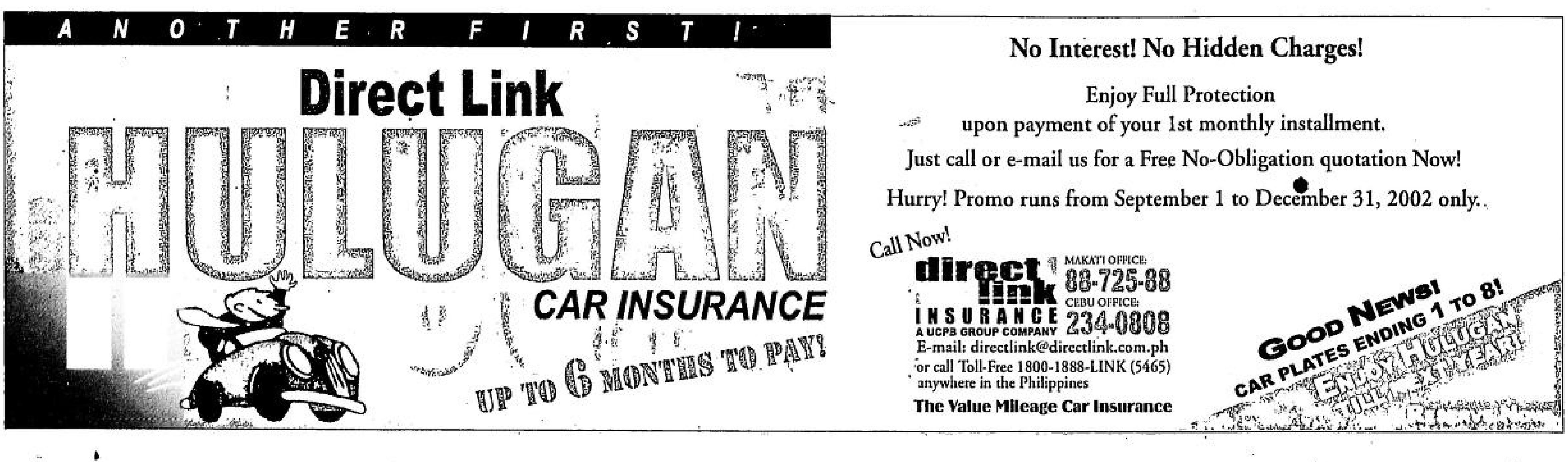

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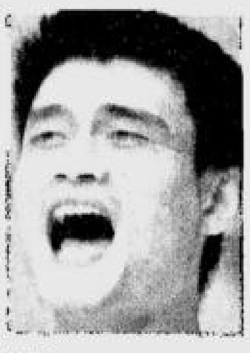
FACE PAINTING
Karateka Gretchen Malalad sports a Philippine flag on her cheek during a break in the Busan Asian Games. Face painting has become popular in the sportsfest

JESS YUSON

AFTER ASIAD ENDS

Yao plans to sign deal with Rockets

By William Foreman
AP Writer



YAO

BUSAN, South Korea—The NBA's No. 1 draft pick, Chinese center Yao Ming, said Saturday that he plans to sign a contract with the Houston Rockets.

The Rockets have said that they have reached a verbal agreement on a contract with Yao, but Chinese officials have said that they would not discuss the issue until after the Asian Games end on Monday.

The China Basketball Association needs to approve the deal before the 2.26-meter (7-foot-5) center can play in the NBA.

But after Yao's Chinese team beat Kazakhstan 131-62 in the semifinals on Saturday, Yao said that he would be able to sign the NBA contract.

"What do you mean can I sign the contract?" Yao said as he walked to the locker room. "Of course I can."

He declined to comment further.

Chinese team official Wang Fei declined to discuss Yao's contract. "I can't answer your questions. You'll have to ask other officials," he said as he briskly walked to the locker room.

In the game with Kazakhstan, Yao scored 19 points, a mix of dunks and jumpers that showed off his soft touch. Yao and another NBA player on the Chinese team, Menke Bateer, sat out the fourth quarter. Menke scored 13 points.

Bateer has been traded twice in the two weeks, from Denver to Detroit and ending up with the San Antonio Spurs for a second-round draft pick.

China plays South Korea for the Asian Games gold on Monday.

On Saturday, forward Li Nan scored 24 points as defending champion China demolished Kazakhstan to set up a final against South Korea in the men's basketball competition.

The host edged the Philippines 69-68 after a dramatic three-point shot on the final buzzer from Lee Sang-min in the first semi-final at Pusan's Sajik Gymnasium.

Ming added 19 points in just 13 minutes of play for China, which will be firm favorite to retain its Asian Games title against South Korea in Monday's final.

SRICHAPHAN kisses his gold medal.

AFP

Paradorn a no-show in Qatar?

BUSAN, South Korea—Thailand's Paradorn Srichaphan coasted to the Asian Games men's singles tennis gold on Saturday and then stunned his army of passionate fans by revealing he may not defend his title in Qatar in 2006.

After sweeping past South Korea's Lee Hyung-Taik 7-6 (7-3), 6-4 to confirm his place as the undisputed king of Asian tennis, he said that the lack of decent competition here may prompt him to skip the next Games in Doha.

"I will be 27-years-old when the next Games come around and I may not play. I will have to see because I have to shake up my schedule to get to the Games," said Paradorn, the top seed and world ranked 26th player whose one hour and 45 minute win over the Korean, 79 in the world, completed an easy trip to the gold medal here.

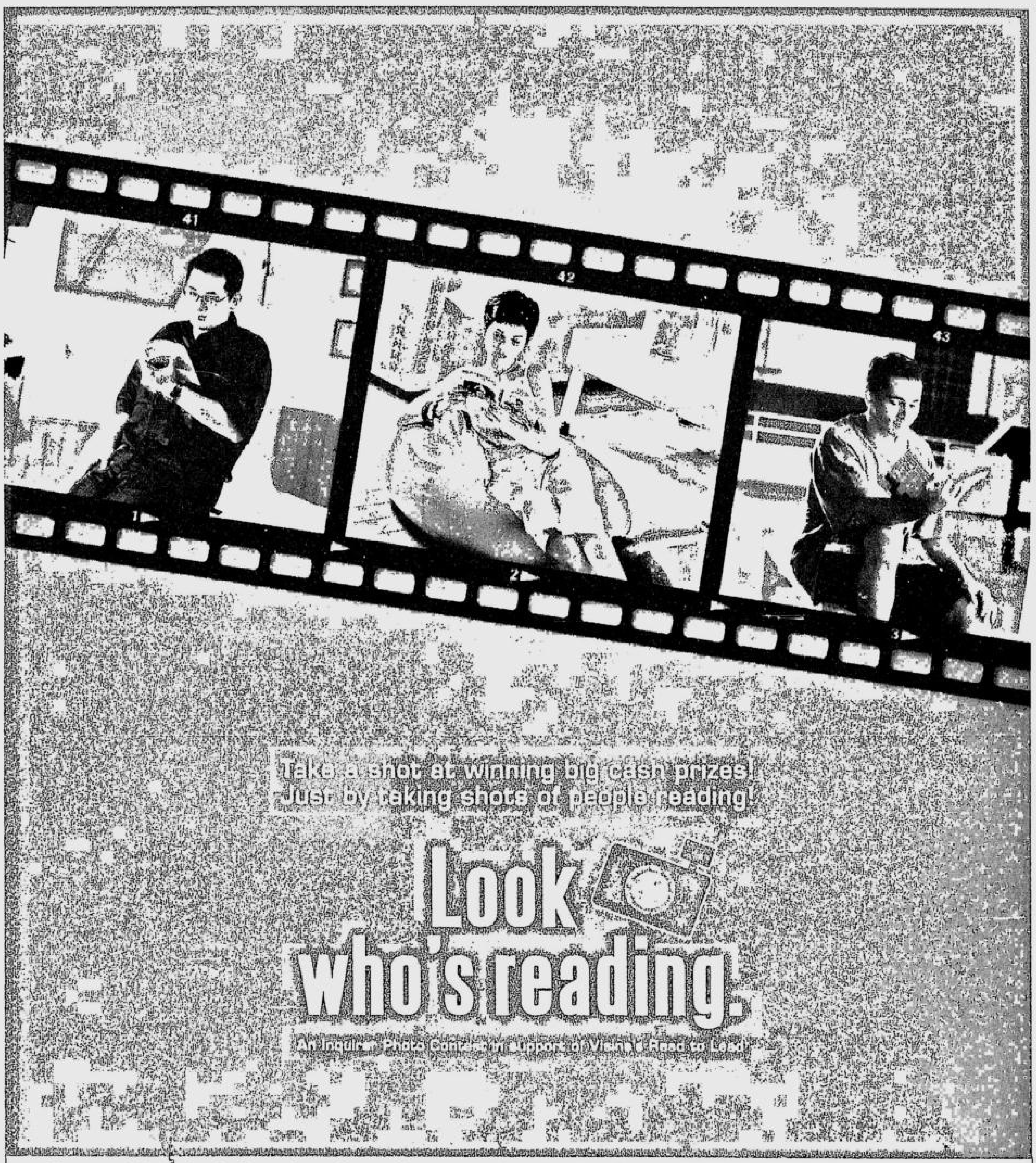
He didn't drop a set in five matches in the entire tournament and before Saturday's final, he had surrendered just 13 games.

"I feel I had some tough matches in the last two days in the semi-final and the final," said Paradorn who had defeated Oleg Ogorodov 6-3, 6-3 in his last four match.

"I think there are four to six guys who are good for Asian tennis, but if we want to really improve then we have work with the juniors and get their standard raised.

"I know how important the Asian Games are to Thailand and the medal here will be good for them but I will have to see about the 2006 Games and see what my schedule is like if they need me to play again." Paradorn and the second-seeded Lee are the only Asian players in the world's top 100 at the moment.

Japan's Takao Suzuki, who was the third seed here, is ranked a modest 110 while Ogorodov of Uzbekistan, the fourth seed, is at 148. *AFP*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ASIAD ASSESSMENT

We have met our target–POC chief

By Roy Luarca

BUSAN, South Korea—There was a shortfall of gold medal, yes.

But, overall, the Philippine delegation did quite well in the 14th Asian Games here.

This was the assessment of Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit with just one day left before competition concludes.

"We have met our target of surpassing our performance in the 1998 Bangkok Asiad. We were expecting a little more gold but they did not come," said Dayrit.

The reason for the POC's early optimism: "We believe that the team we sent now is stronger than the one in Bangkok because we have superstars like Paeng (Nepomuceno), Django (Bustramante) and Bata (Reyes). Just so happened *na medyo minalas tayo*. We missed two golds in billiards, two golds in bowling and the men's golf team did not perform according to expectation. So the women's team was a pleasant surprise."

Now that the Asiad picture has turned blurred for the Philippines, Dayrit would like to view it from a different perspective.

"We look at it (situation) as a half filled glass not half empty. Let us take stock of what we already have."

That thing to do according to Dayrit, is to consider this Asiad as step toward the country's successful hosting of the 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

"This (Asiad) is all geared up for 2005, the Asiad is very tough and our athletes will be tougher when they get to compete at home."

Defending the athletes sent here, Dayrit said they all passed the requirement for being the best in their event in the region.

Dayrit noted the disparity of athletes from Southeast Asia and the powerhouse nations like China, Japan and South Korea.

"We are shooting for Asian Games standards, while they are already targeting world records," said Dayrit. "How could we win.

"If we are to contend for the overall championship in 2004 we must begin our preparations right away," said Dayrit. "If we can double our 2001 output in the Vietnam SEAG then it can be a good indicator."

Dayrit wants everybody to pitch in to achieve these goals.

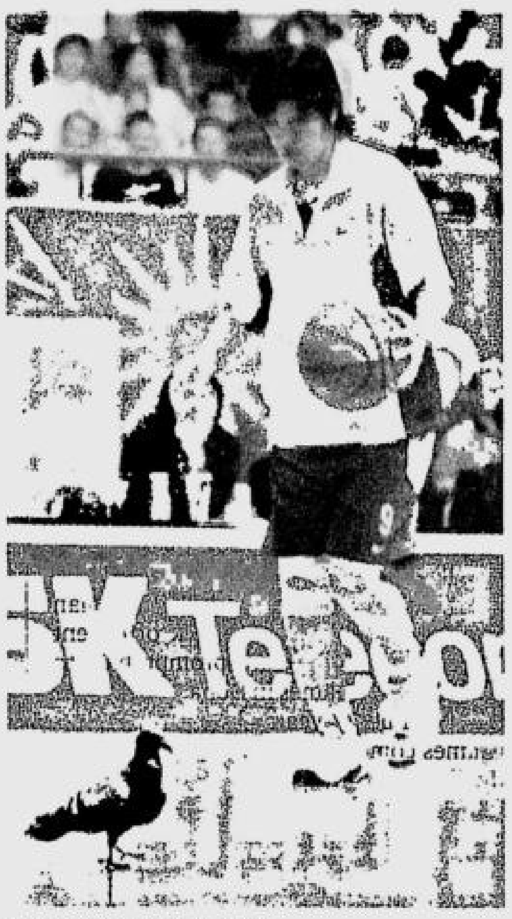
This early, Dayrit said the POC is already looking for as workable arrangement with the Philippine Sports Commission, the national sports association and the private sector.

Dayrit even hinted of getting foreign sponsors just to bolsters the money chest.

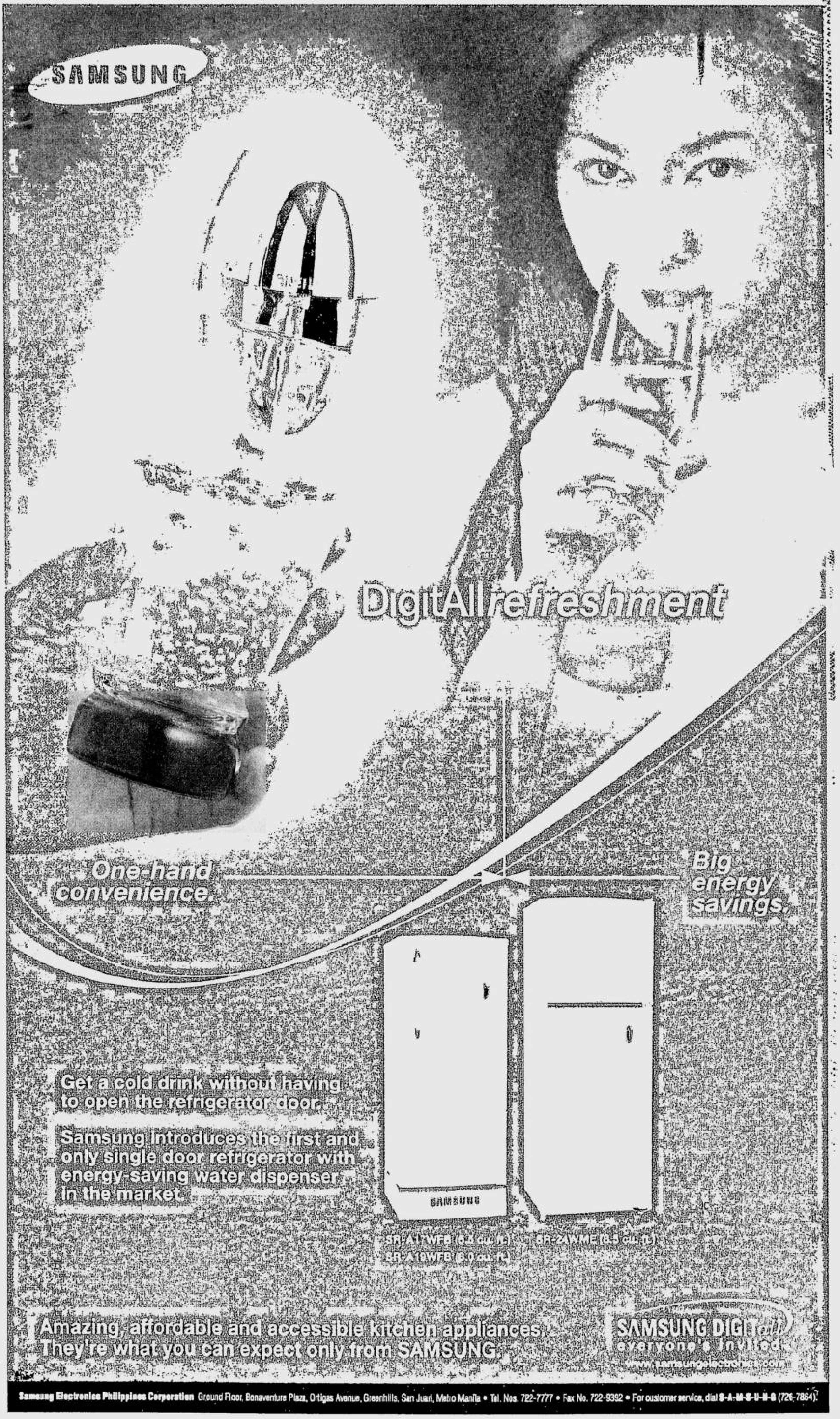
"Let us all be together in these undertaking. We nearly did it in 1991 in Manila, so there's no reason we can't finally win the overall championship," said Dayrit.

The POC masterplan calls for several key areas of concentration.

One aspect involves the Games separation, which basically involves identifying and training truly qualified athletes. This also involves the development of competition venues.



SURPRISE VISITOR
Taiwan's Huang Shiau Jie looks at a pigeon which landed on the court during the team's pre-game warm-up session at the women's basketball semi final for the 14th Asian Games 2002 in Busan last Saturday. AFP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LA SALLE SAVING GRACE

Lady Archers post a four-peat

By Dennis U. Eroa

SHE LOOKED at the ring like a surgeon at work, took a deep breath unmindful of all the mayhem surrounding her. Then, she made the biggest shots of his young, enchanted career.

With her accurate free throws, Regina Velarde, a 5-foot-6 star out of scenic San Pablo City, just rescued La Salle from the basketball pits. Velarde, a graduating electronics communication student, scored the game's final six points, four from the free throw lane, as the Lady Archers extended their UAAP women's basketball reign to four years.

La Salle's 67-63 win over Adamson spoke a lot about its successful basketball program, which has become a fertile ground for future stars. The victory of the Lady Archers was refreshing news for La Salle fans, who were still recovering after getting flattened by Ateneo in the men's cage championship.

"The win gave us something to cheer about. It showed that La Salle's basketball program is alive and kicking," said Manny Salgado, deputy manager of the men's team which lost its five-peat bid.

As the final buzzer sounded, La Salle supporters headed by alumni association president Lito Tanjuatco and members of the "Fat Boys" celebrated wildly, satisfied that their Alma Mater will not go empty-handed.

Velarde's heroics ended a difficult series for La Salle.

"We're very happy with the result," said Tanjuatco. Salgado, representing team manager Terry Caspitrano, gamely said yes when the whole team asked for a Boracay trip as bonus for its win during the victory party at the Emerald Restaurant in front of the US Embassy.

The Lady Archers went 12-0 in the eliminations. They downed the Falconettes in Game One of the best-of-three titular series, 72-63, but got waylaid in the next game, 58-54, which led to the no-more tomorrow Game Three.

"It wasn't easy as it looked. But I never lose my confidence on the girls," said youthful mentor Dax Castellano. The 25-year-old Castellano worked as assistant for Juno Sauler, who steered La Salle to the grand slam. Sauler is now a member of the Barangay Ginebra coaching staff.

Aside from Velarde, La Salle boasted of the league's deadliest backcourt tandem in the person of twin sisters Jessica and Jessamine Manalo.

Jessica sizzled with his laser-like passes and, like Jessamine, shattered Adamson's zone with their outside shots. They also boasted of excellent court vision and a superb feel of the game.

Both standing 5-foot-1, the Manalos, graduating applied corporate students, hugged their teammates tightly as the final buzzer sounded.

THE TRIUMPHANT La Salle Lady Archers whoop it up after posting their fourth straight UAAP title with a 67-63 victory over the Adamson Falconettes recently at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

RP lady shooters top World tourney

THE PHILIPPINES topped the ladies and modified divisions of the World Shoot XI championships for the second straight time last month in Pietersburg, South Africa.

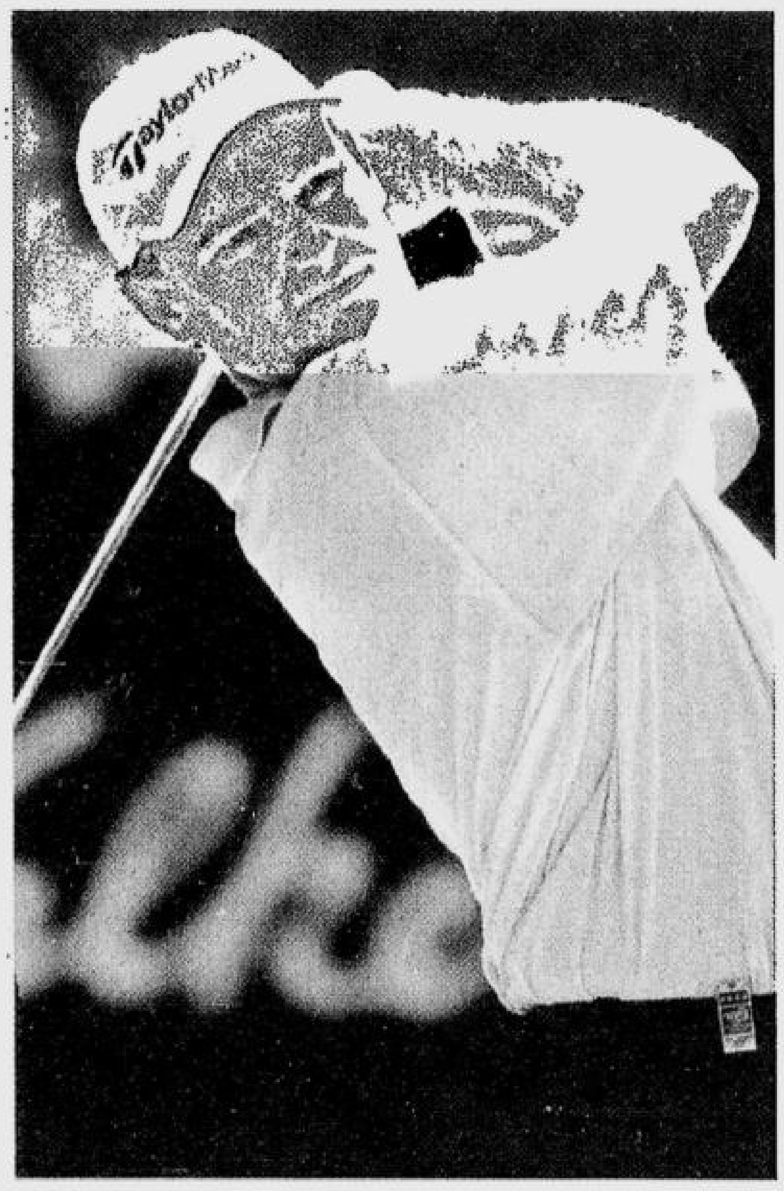
Kaye Cabalutangan ruled the ladies division, duplicating the feat of Athena Lim, who won the crown in 1999, while shooters Jag Lejano, Jay Morales, Roland Tan and Danny Torrevillas also made the country proud as they captured the modified division for the second time around.

Catch these guys in action in Shootfest every Saturday at 1:30 p.m. on IBC-13.

Three years ago, the Philippines was adjudged as the best nation in the meet, an award given to the highest scoring country on all categories.

This year, the Filipinos emerged victorious in five divisions, beating thousands of shooters from across the globe.

Competitors coming from powerhouse United States, South Africa and fast-rising countries Brazil, Czechoslovakia, Italy and France also made their presence felt.



ELS: Looking forward to an extended Christmas.

I want to spend extended holiday—Els

IT TOOK Ernie Els some time before his victory in the Johnnie Walker Classic 2002 Open had finally sunk in.

"After winning a major, you really need time for your family. And that's the only time that victory sinks in," said Els.

Els made the winning shot from the greenside bunker on the 18th at Muirfield, allowing him to secure the elusive Claret Jug in the event.

Fully aware that he would have to save par, Els splashed the ball to within three feet and made the shot that mattered most.

Els said he would savor the victory when he spend an extended Christmas holiday in his homeland South Africa.

"We go down there every December so I don't play too much golf and just enjoy being with my family," said Els, who currently leads the money-winner list on the 2002 European Tour.

"Maybe I will be able to put my clubs away for a whole week, but after that there is kind of a fear factor," said Els, who boasts of the smooth swing that would even put Tiger Woods to shame.

"After a week away from golf completely, I need to feel that it's still there, that I'm still hitting the ball from the middle of the clubface. I'll just go through the motions after the first week off," Els said.

This unerring commitment to his game should not really be surprising. After all, Els has three Major titles to his name (US Open successes came in 1994 and 1997) and it takes more than God-given talent and a little bit of luck to fill one's trophy cabinet with such prestigious silverware.

RP runners join Athens marathon

FIFTEEN members of the Executive Runners Club Phils. Inc. will join the official invitation to compete at the prestigious International Athens Classic Marathon on Nov. 3.

The Runnex-Pharmaton Sunday Running Clinic in coordination with the Quezon City Parks and Development Foundation (QCDPF) is providing weekly free running clinic to resident of Quezon City and out-of-school youths.

For details, please contact Dr. Conrad Montemayor at 912-4160/912-4245 or Paul de Leon, Runnex VP and technical director at 924-2447.

Lucky 7 Amcham golf on

THE AMERICAN Chamber of Commerce will stage the Lucky 7 Amcham Charity Tournament on Oct. 18 at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club's Aoki Course in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

Highlighting the 18-hole event will be the hitting of the ceremonial drive at 7 a.m. Morton Holbrook of the US Embassy Consular for Economic Affairs will do the honors.

Preceding this will be the registration of the participants at 6:30 a.m. The tournament will start at 7:30 a.m. via a shotgun start. The Peoria scoring system will be used.

The event was launched in 1989 primarily to raise funds for the American Chamber Foundation's Social Development Programs on Street Children and Disaster Response.

Organizers said yesterday that all golfers are welcome to take part in the tournament.

For more details, call Monette at 834-0184, 551-8060, telefax 834-1192 or e-mail monette@amchamphilippines.com.

Manila Ladies Open tourney at Wack Wack

THE MANILA Lady Golfers Foundation Inc. will host the Manila Ladies Amateur Open, a foreign-flavored four-day tournament to be held on Nov. 11-14 at the popular Wack Wack Golf and Country Club west course.

To kick off the tournament, a Ladies and Men's Best Ball Format will be held on Nov. 11. Entry fee for the men will be P2,000 each and free for the participating ladies. The first day ends with the pre-tournament cocktails at 5 p.m. at the newly renovated poolside.

International and local golfers are expected to play on Nov. 12-14. All local amateur lady golfers are invited to join the fund-raising event the proceeds of which will go to the children's charity ward of the Quirino Memorial Hospital.

The event is sponsored by TaylorMade adidas, PBCom, Bingo Bonanza, Pagcor, Unilever, Welch, paraiso de Jardin, Herma Corp., Britanny, Splash, Fortune Tobacco, PacSports, San Miguel, Orocan, Star Pack, Red Ribbon, Shangri-La Makati, Summit Sports and Spa, Godiva and Mango.

Interested parties committed to help the underprivileged children are encouraged to call Ms. Blessing Lavarro at 0917-8919554 or Erik Sabalboro at 0919-5380204.

SportsTV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

Baseball: Mlb Championship Series National League Championship Series Game #4(L);03:00:00;14-Oct-02;10:30 Football

Western Union World Football (T);00:30:00;14-Oct-02;11:00

Extreme Sports

X-Games X-Games - Day 3 Philadelphia, PA USA (R);01:30:00;14-Oct-02 12:30

Waterskiing

Pro Wakeboard Series 2002 Pro Wakeboard Series (Men'S) Kelowna, BC CANADA (R);00:30:00;14-Oct-02;13:00;Volleyball

Fivb Volleyball 2002 Fivb Men'S World Championship Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA Third Place Match(R);02:00:00; 14-Oct-02;15:00;

Volleyball

Fivb Volleyball 2002 Fivb Men'S World Championship Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA Final(S);02:00:00;14-Oct-02; 17:00

Baseball

Mlb Championship Series American League Championship Series Game #5 (If Necessary)(R);03:00:00;14-Oct-02;20:00

Sport News; Sportscenter Taiwan (S);00:30:00;14-Oct-02;20:30

Baseball

MLBChampionship Series National League Championship Series Game #4(R);03:00:00;14-Oct-02;23:30

Sport News

Sportscenter Taiwan (S) 00:30:00;15-Oct-02;00:00;Sport News

Sportscenter Asia (S);00:30:00;15-Oct-02;00:30

Football

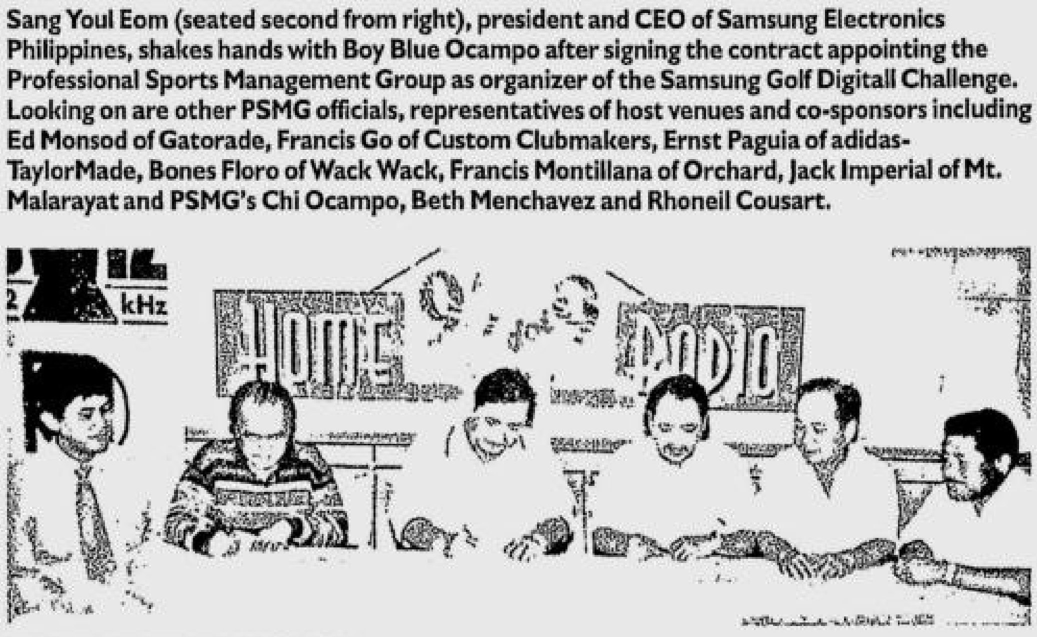
Nfl Football Denver, CO USA Miami Dolphins Vs Denver Broncos (S);03:00:00

Football

English Premier Football League Epl Encore (T);02:00:00;14-Oct-02;09:00

SAMSUNG GOLF
Digit

SAMSUNG GOLF
Sang Youl Eom (seated second from right), president and CEO of Samsung Electronics Philippines, shakes hands with Boy Blue Ocampo after signing the contract appointing the Professional Sports Management Group as organizer of the Samsung Golf Digitall Challenge. Looking on are other PSMG officials, representatives of host venues and co-sponsors including Ed Monsod of Gatorade, Francis Go of Custom Clubmakers, Ernst Paguia of adidas-TaylorMade, Bones Floro of Wack Wack, Francis Montillana of Orchard, Jack Imperial of Mt. Malarayat and PSMG's Chi Ocampo, Beth Menchavez and Rhoneil Cousart.



FIRST GENTLEMAN CUP
First Gentleman Mike Arroyo (middle) signs the Memorandum of Agreement with WG&A Philippines confirming its commitment to provide free transportation to the participants of the First Gentleman's Pro Golf Circuit. To his left is Raffy Sanvictores, vice president/COO Passage of WG&A. Also shown (from left) are Benigno B. Aquino, vice president for marketing of dwIZ; Col. Antonio L. Cabangon Chua, Aliw Broadcasting chair; Rogelio W. Manalo, president of the Federation of Golf Clubs (Phils.)Inc., which is managing the tournament; and S.P. Malbarosa, Wack Wack general manager and secretary general of the Executive Committee. dwQZ Home Radio 97.9 and dwIZ are the broadcast media partners of the event. The 12-leg circuit will kick off at the exclusive Sta. Elena Golf & Country Club on Oct. 15.

RP driver vaults to lead in Asian F3 Challenge

FILIPINO Enzo Pastor shot to the top of the Asian Formula Renault (AFR) standings after scoring victories in Round 12 of the Asian Formula Challenge at the Johor Circuit in Malaysia recently.

While Briton Mark Goddard extended his lead in the Asian Formula 3 (AF3) series, Pastor of Team TEC had a perfect weekend.

The event was organized by the Malaysian Motor Sports Club in cooperation with Asian Formula 3 Corp.

Fresh from winning the previous race, the 20-year-old Pastor reprised his winning performance in Round 12 to overtake Franky Cheng of China in the race for the AF3 drivers' championship.

He now has a sizable margin and only needs to finish third in the remaining two rounds in Subic Bay, Philippines to take the title. "I now have a 22-point lead, which is a comfortable gap," Pastor said.

Malaysian Farriz Mohamed, meanwhile, managed to stay out of trouble to finish second behind Pastor.

Farriz received a 10-second penalty in the previous round after he overtook another car under the yellow flag. "It was a much better race for me than the first one. I had a very bad start but I was still able to stay with the lead pack," Farriz said.

One driver who is becoming a fixture on the AFR podium is Hong Kong's Kenneth Ma, who drove steadily to take a comfortable third place.

PBA simultaneous telecast mulled over

A SIMULTANEOUS telecast of PBA games over the National Broadcasting Network and IBC-13?

A reliable television executive involved in the said negotiation yesterday disclosed the possibility of the PBA games simulcast over the two networks as the PBA Board of Governors were seemingly impressed with the NBN-IBC combined offer.

Officials of the two networks, led by NBA chair Mia Concio and IBC general manager Bob del Rosario, were said to be in constant meetings with the PBA Governors. They reportedly met last Tuesday at the PLDT Boardroom.

The TV executive, though, refused to disclose the amount of the bid and the proposed period of the contract but said: "I believe chances of turning down the NBN-IBC offer are very remote. At this stage, I believe it's just a matter of formally signing the contract."

This means wider coverage of PBA Games not just over the two television networks but also to 33 provincial TV stations reaching 94 percent of the country.

What further impressed the PBA Board were the perks of the proposed NBN-IBC offer which includes the use of two portable satellites for provincial games capable of telecasting PBA Games from anywhere in the country, five OB Vans dedicated for PBA Games, and the coverage of PBA Games in 18 radio stations nationwide.

The proposed deal also offers the use of 12 cameras at the playing venue–including slam cams, *Cam Mates and Isolation cameras aside from two slo-mo machines.

UAAP Press Corps awardees pose during the awarding ceremonies. From left Coach of the Year Joel Banal, Most Improved Play er Gec Chia, Sportsmanship awardee BJ Manalo, UPIS coach Lito Vergara, Marvin Cruz and Phil Fonacier, representing his son Larry. RANDY HORMILLOSA

Gonzales, Fonacier cited as top Press Corps players

THE UAAP Press Corps recently awarded Ateneo's Wesley Gonzales and Larry Fonacier, represented by his father Phil, glass trophies for emerging as finals MVP in the recent Ateneo-La Salle clash for the UAAP championship.

Also awarded were George Chia, most improved player, and Joel Banal, coach of the year.

Pointguard Marvin Cruz of newly-crowned junior titlist University of the Philippines-Integrated School was picked MVP by sportswriters covering the country's most prestigious collegiate league.

"I am thankful for the Lord for making this award possible," said Gonzales in his thank-you speech.

"My family and I also would like to express my deep appreciation to the press corps for this honor."

Banal also thanked the press corps and expressed hopes that he will attain a "grand slam" by steering the Eagles to their second straight title in the coming PBL Conference in November. Ateneo won the Challenge Cup at the start of the year.

UPIS mentor Lito Vergara recieved a special award for steering the Preps to their first-ever UAAP title.

La Salle's BJ Manalo won the sportsmanship award.

Manila Standard sports editor and PSA President Bert Cuevas was guest of honor in the affair attended by Ateneo alumni and parents of the honorees.

Cuevas delivered the inspirational remarks, while the INQUIRER's Dennis Eroa made the opening remarks.

The event was held at the Komiks Cafe in Malate, Manila.

Mutya ng Pilipinas runner-up Frances Margaret Arreza and Allison Lopez emceed the two-hour long ceremonies.

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GRASSROOTS DEV'T

Buhain vows to make world-beaters

PRESIDENT Arroyo waves to the athletes during the send off ceremony held recently at HeroesHall in Malacañang Palace. Looking on are PSC Chair Eric Buhain (left) and POC President Celso Dayrit. EDWIN BACASMAS

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor

BUSAN, South Korea—You will not believe this, but Eric Buhain, a one-time medalist in the Asian Games, does not believe that the height-is-might adage applies only in basketball.

On the contrary, the 32-year-old chair of the Philippine Sports Commission said: "We need height in practically every sport. It is only in diving and weightlifting that we don't need height in order to excel."

And chess, too, which would be introduced in the 2006 Asian Games in Doha, Qatar.

A swimmer of note during his heydays, having won the bronze medal in the breaststroke in the 1990 Beijing Asian Games, Buhain is seriously contemplating on tapping the country's mayors and governors to ask them to produce 14-year-old six-footers.

"From their ranks will come our country's hopes in future international competition," said Buhain. "Height has always been a major consideration in sports. If we don't have the height, we will have a hard time making it big in sports."

Relatively tall

Buhain is himself relatively tall. His height of 5-foot-10 helped him win six gold medals in the 1991 Manila Southeast Asian Games, making it as the Games' Most Valuable Player.

"Look at Ian Thrope, the Australian icon in swimming and the most medalled athlete in the Sydney Olympics," said Buhain. "The 6-foot-8 Thorpe who wears size 17 shoes proves that swimmers like basketball players have to be tall to become world beaters."

He also mentioned the "Albatros" Michael Gross from Germany a 6-foot-7 swimmer with a wingspan comparable to that of an albatross. "If you have long arms plus height and big feet, you have a built-in advantage already right from the starting blocks."

Buhain said he recognizes basketball as the Filipinos' No. 1 sport.

"That's our culture already. Basketball is our national passion, we should not fight that truism, we should embrace it and use it to flush out the hidden talent from the countryside.

He said his plan is to scout for six footers from the countryside by employing the help of mayors and governors.

National coaches

"We will line up the six footers in the plaza with national coaches like Chot Reyes and Jong Uichico, for example, collecting the basketball potential," said Buhain.

"Those who will not be selected will be asked to join other sports and we will subsidize their studies and training." Buhain said. "Efraim Genuino, chair of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation, is more than willing to help in this task.

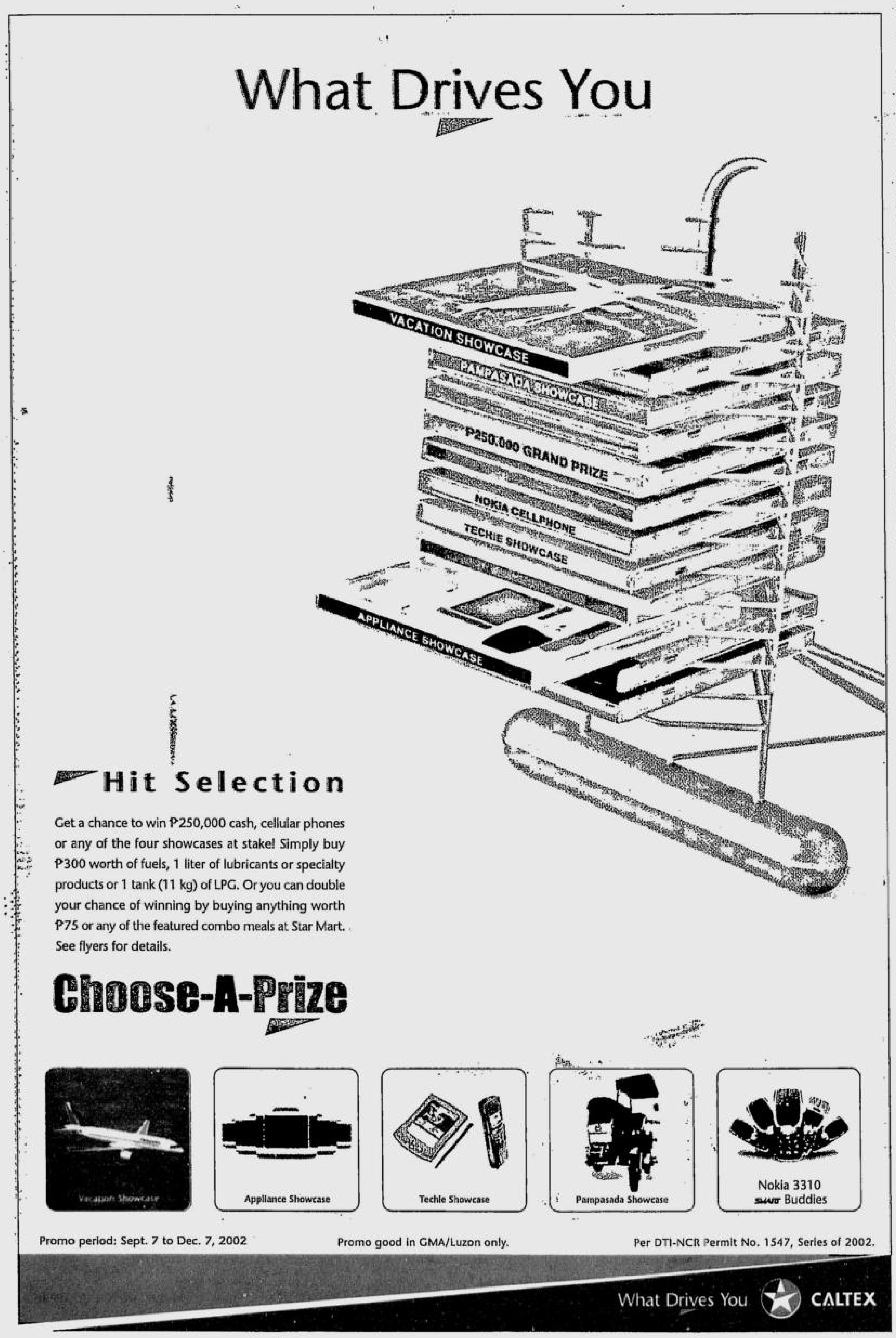
"He's very sports-minded," said Buhain of Genuino. "He wants ideas and is aching to execute them immediately."

Buhain had lunch last week with the minister of sports of China and earned an invitation to have four-province tour of China next April.

"They will show us how to produce world champions," said Buhain. "They will also show us their sporting facilities. The big surprise was when he told me they have no secret for success."

Buhain said he was so happy with the Philippine performance in the about to be concluded Asian Games.

"But I feel we have to prepare harder in future Asian Games," said Buhain. "We should not concentrate much on the SEA games any more because while China's program is to go world class our mission should be to be excel in the Asian Games.



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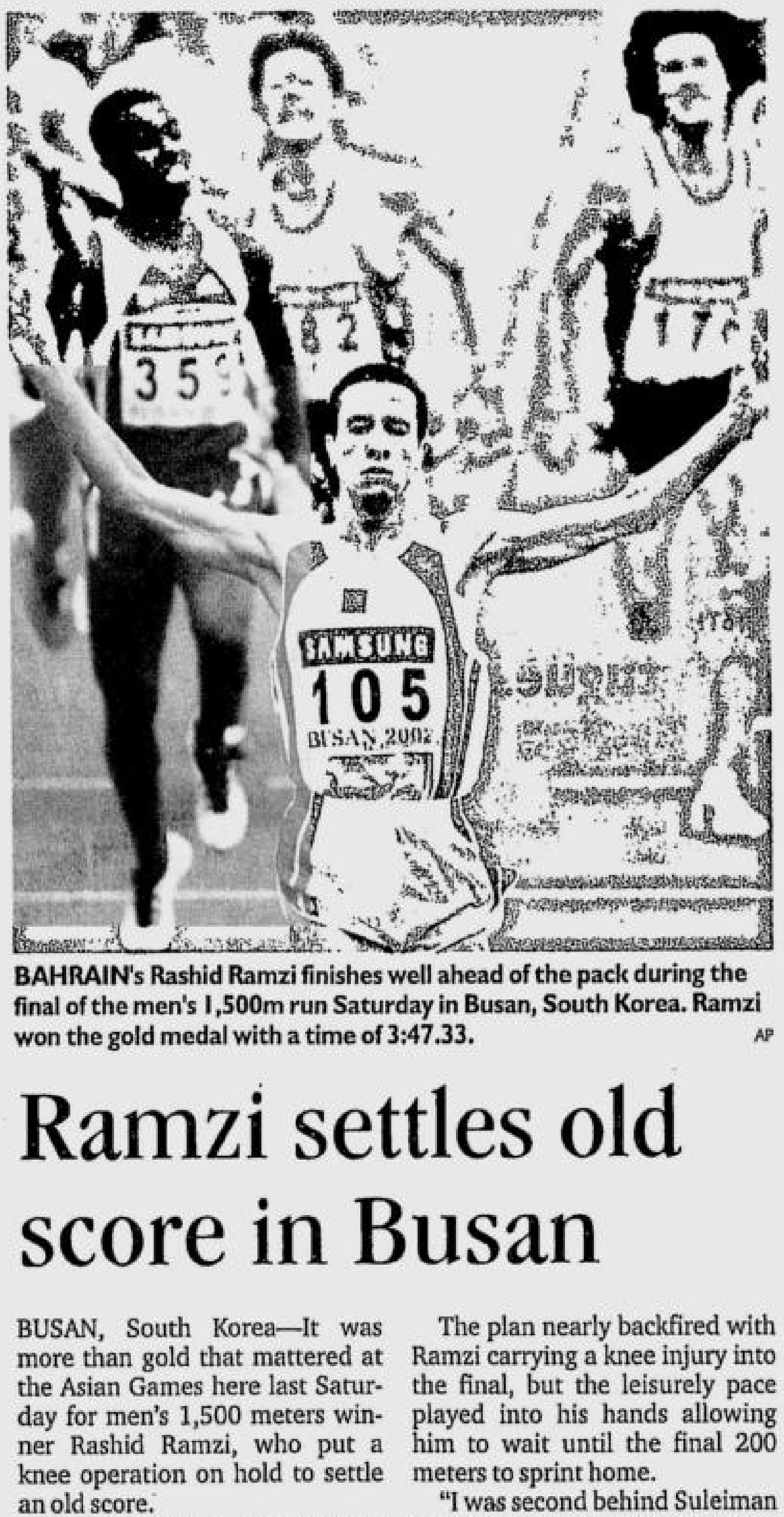

BAHRAIN's Rashid Ramzi finishes well ahead of the pack during the final of the men's 1,500m run Saturday in Busan, South Korea. Ramzi won the gold medal with a time of 3:47.33. AP

Ramzi settles old score in Busan

BUSAN, South Korea—It was more than gold that mattered at the Asian Games here last Saturday for men's 1,500 meters winner Rashid Ramzi, who put a knee operation on hold to settle an old score.

The Bahranian was furious with himself after losing to Abdulrahman Ahmed Suleiman of Qatar at the Asian championships in Colombo two months ago and made the Games the target race to get his own back.

The plan nearly backfired with Ramzi carrying a knee injury into the final, but the leisurely pace played into his hands allowing him to wait until the final 200 meters to sprint home.

"I was second behind Suleiman in Colombo, and now I've got my revenge," an ecstatic Ramzi said after finishing in a relatively slow 3 minutes and 47.33 seconds.

"The race was very slow, as I expected, and it helped me because of my injury," he said. *AFP*

METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Largest Shoes in the World (5 meter long) Marikina City

SHOE TIME. Marikina City has started to craft what it hopes will be the biggest shoe in the world, big enough to accommodate 30 men, according to Mayor Marides Fernando *(Story on Page A35)*.

■ **Fernando warns: Barangay leaders next** P.34

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RP loss to Korea a Good-looking Heartache

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

BUSAN—What's the shape and size of an undeserved heartache?

No, nobody dared shoot this question in the post-game interview following that sad, numbing one-point defeat suffered by the RP basketball team in the semifinal round of the Asian Games basketball tournament here.

But coach Kim Jin of the host Korean basketball team said that, frankly speaking, he did not give a damn about the Philippine team.

Kim made the confession some 30 minutes after the Koreans had survived by the skin of their teeth the gallant stand of their opponents.

He did not want to sound either arrogant or rude, coach Kim explained.

The truth, he said, is that he had never imagined the RP team would ever be a threat after its lowly, hideous forgettable stand against China.

***

That was easy to believe.

As reported here previously, the Philippine team got so shamefully shattered by China that it ended up looking for its name on the floor.

The RP team, however, managed to reinvent itself and next played its best and strongest game in its showdown with South Korea on Saturday.

Coach Kim could not believe how the Philippines, dumb and defenseless against China, had metamorphosed into a serious threat overnight.

Kim kept his cool in the post-game interview.

His well-combed hair and smooth, greaseless face betrayed the hardcourt horror he had been through.

***

It was like this. The match, all but conceded to the Koreans, turned into a thriller after the Philippines took an early 10-point lead. Korea, however, stormed back, took the half by four, padded this edge to eight points in the third quarter before RP inched back.

RP effectively plugged the flanks, mainly on the sharp shuffling of men against Moon Kyunyung, the feared Korean gunner.

Asi Taulava, miserable against China, flashed this might around the shaded area, Dondon Hontiveros sniped and soared, while Olsen Racela displayed awesome all-around sharpness and hustle.

Then there were only 23 seconds left in the game, the Philippines ahead again, 68-66, on a three-pointer by Racela.

Korea was unsuccessful on a counter try. Racela, after a big rebound, raced to the basket and was fouled.

***

The Korean coach, now retracing how they survived, said he had all but given up.

He, however, sensed a last hope after Racela, who played like a giant in the homestretch, bowed to pressure and flubbed not only one but both free shots.

Korea, taking the rebound, went to Moon who, after being shackled by Dondon Hontiveros, slipped and lost the ball. There was a mad, frantic dash for possession, with players diving and scratching the floor.

Bang Sun-yun, after accidentally gaining possession, promptly flipped a pass from the floor to Lee Sang Mil on the far right.

Lee, double-teamed, faked and sent two Filipino guards jumping, before going up and beating the buzzer by a breath for the unbelievable winning three points, 69-68.

***

Korean players and officials jumped in delirium.

Members of the RP team either sank on their knees or fell flat on the floor, almost all of them sobbing.

The Korean got their deserved ovation from a riot of hometown supporters. But the Filipinos next also received a roaring applause of approval from a thankful Korean audience.

Coach Jong Uichico, taking what could be the most arduous walk of his career back to their dugout, slumped against the white wall outside the dressing.

He tried to choke back tears, his face swollen, eyes totally forlorn like a man who had just lost all his possessions in a big fire.

He next excused himself to join his players in the dugout where they obviously cried their hearts out.

***

It was all so unreal, and nobody in the Philippine team could relate to the moment. Outside the stadium, police had to cordon off the RP team bus as shrieking Korean fans, many of them girls, milled around it waiting for Filipino team members.

Other elderly fans piled out of the playing venue, visibly awed and delighted. There was no denying now that the Filipino basketeers, who had become a laughing stock and favorite whipping boys of the Chinese and the Koreans in the regional competitions, have regained a measure of respect here following that epic stand against the mighty host team.

Much later, however, it would filter out from the shut RP dugout that Uichico had offered to take all the blame for the heartbreaking defeat.

There were still three RP fouls to give in the final 23 seconds, they could have stalled the final Korean basket, but Uichico said he failed miserably by not calling a time-out.

Dont' buy that. OK. Uichico could have lost that game, but in the end, what emerged was a man of great character.

It would indeed be next to impossible for a top official of the Philippine delegation to duplicate Uichico and own up to their big failure here.

Uichico's selfless class act helped make the RP team failure against Korea a Good-looking Heartache. There was no assurance the result against Kazakhstan would be as fine.

8 charged with issuing fake LTFRB franchises

By Agnes E. Donato

EIGHT people from a Land Transportation Office-based law firm have been charged with estafa for allegedly issuing fake Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) franchises to 42 public transport operators.

The charges of estafa through falsification of public documents were filed by the National Capital Region Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit of the Philippine National Police before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

Charged were Josephine Mesias-Sanchez, Emily Mesias, Irene Mesias, Ma Ann Mesias, Alfredo Mesias, Domingo Alfaro, Chito de la Peña, and Dionisio Ramos, all officials or staff members of the Miranda Law Office, which is located at the Land Transportation Office on East Avenue in Quezon City.

The case stemmed from the complaints made by 42 transport operators from all over Metro Manila who reportedly acquired franchises from the LTFRB several years ago through the Miranda law firm and with the help of the Mesias family.

The complainants said that when they recently brought the franchises to the LTFRB for renewal, they found out that the franchises were fake.

They said they confronted the Mesias family who, however, calmed them down with some explanation and even convinced them to let the Mesias family take care of renewing the franchises.

But members of the NCR-CIDU checked with the LTFRB and confirmed that the franchises were indeed falsified.

Police said the names of the franchise owners did not correspond with the franchise case numbers registered with the LTFRB.

The complainants said they paid the respondents from P14,000 to P40,000. Some said the Mesias family did not issue them any receipt. Others said they got receipts, but not the official kind.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, October 14, 2002
28th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Gal 4:22-24, 26-27, 31-5:1
Gospel: Lk 11:29-32

As the crowd increased, Jesus began to speak in this way, "People of the present time are evil people. They ask for a sign, but no sign will be given to them except the sign of Jonah. As Jonah became a sign for the people of Nineveh, so will the Son of Man be a sign for this generation. The Queen of the South will rise up on Judgment Day with the people of these times and accuse them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and here there is greater than Solomon. The people of Nineveh will rise up on Judgment Day with the people of these times and accuse them, for Jonah's preaching made them turn from their sins, and here there is greater then Jonah."

Commentary

There are many people today asking for signs. What more signs do they want? Do they not realize that only love, justice and peace can save this world? Do we need more violence? More civil wars? More selfishness? More drugs killing our youths? More injustice denying the minimum needed for millions of people to survive? It's very clear. We have enough signs to observe that our society cannot function on our basis. Unless we close our eyes, everything indicates that we must build a new society based on love and justice. It this not the Gospel?

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

MERCANTILE LAW/COMMERCIAL LAW (CORPORATION LAW)—Concurrence of the following elements necessary to allow piercing the veil of corporate fiction—The question of whether a corporation is a mere alter ego is one of fact. Piercing the veil of corporate fiction may be allowed only if the following elements concur: (1) control—not mere stock control, but complete domination—not only of finances, but of policy and business practice in respect to the transaction attacked, must have been such that the corporate entity as to this transaction had at the time no separate mind, will or existence of its own; (2) such control must have been used by the defendant to commit a fraud or a wrong to perpetuate the violation of a statutory or other positive legal right; and (3) the said control and breach of duty must have proximately caused the injury or unjust loss complained of. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Panganiban, Third Division, Philippine National Bank v. Andrada Electric and Engineering Company, G. R. No. 142936, April 17, 2002]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

BF: Barangay leaders next

By Christian V. Esguerra

IF YOU see your neighbor throw trash on the streets and sidewalks, in rivers and other waterways, you must accost him immediately, especially if you're a barangay official.

Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando stressed this point even as he observed that barangay chairs and watchmen must be made accountable for the widespread littering in Metro Manila.

"We'll take them to task," Fernando said. "We have a lot of barangay officials yet they can't do anything about the problem."

Fernando said these officials can hardly perform their duties in the government's waste management program because they are "too close" to residents.

"At this point, they can barely establish the line between their being barangay officials and their being neighbors of residents," he said in Filipino.

"We really have to educate them on the importance of policing their areas of jurisdiction," he added.

Fernando's predecessor Benjamin Abalos Sr. had also slammed barangay officials for their alleged failure to check widespread littering.

Abalos even threatened to sue officials who would be found reneging on their responsibilities.

Fernando said the role of barangay officials in waste management is vital in preventing the proliferation of garbage right from the households.

The Tullahan River in northern Metro Manila has been undergoing dredging for several weeks now due to garbage that residents of shanties dump on the riverbank.

Barangay leaders who accost people who indiscriminately throw trash in rivers and other waterways would help ease the worsening garbage problem in Metro Manila.

'MILLIONAIRE' WINNERS

Rebecca Gobal and her four children receive the key to their own unit in a housing project for the city's fire victims in Welfareville, Mandaluyong from actor Christopher de Leon (left) and Mayor Benhur Abalos. The mayor recently won P200,000 in the game show "Who Wants to be a Millionaire," hosted by De Leon, and donated his winnings to the housing project.

VAL HANDUMON

Houseboy hunted for boss' slay

By Philip C. Tubeza

MANILA police are hunting down a 20-year-old househelp who allegedly hacked to death his Chinese employer in Tondo, Manila.

Police identified the suspect only as Crisanto, and described him with regular build, 5-foot-5 tall, and dark-complexioned.

Detective Alfredo Salazar of the Western Police District homicide section said Crisanto is suspected of hacking to death his employer, Hong Tong Liao, 21, of Guerero Street in Tondo on Friday afternoon.

The WPD sketch artist yesterday drew the suspect's face based on the details two witnesses gave him.

Salazar said the hacking happened at 3:20 p.m. in Hong's house.

He said Hong, who had been in the country for just nearly a month, was getting some supplies for a relative's store in Tutuban, Divisioria.

Hong's relatives told police he was just visiting from China.

Police learned that Hong hired Crisanto to work for him for two weeks for a daily wage of P100.

Hong's other employees described him as kind.

The victim's neighbors Sherwin and Giselle Navaro said they heard a loud thud from Hong's house Friday afternoon. When they went to check, they saw Hong on the ground, bleeding and gasping for breath.

Detective Salazar said Hong's house was in total disarray.

Hong's relatives claimed that an undetermined amount of money and the victim's Nokia 8310 cellular phone were missing.

Dad wants village heads deputized

A MANILA councilor has asked Metropolitan Manila Development Chair Bayani Fernando to deputize the capital's barangay heads to issue citation tickets to residents who litter and indiscriminately dump garbage in public places.

Councilor Arlene Koa said the barangays are duly empowered to implement Republic Act No. 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

The 1st district councilor said she believes that the goals of RA 9003 to solve the waste disposal problem may be quickly achieved if the barangay heads are given authority to enforce the provisions of the law, especially the penalty provisions.

She said enforcing the penalty provisions will ensure the "optimum cooperation" of residents in following RA 9003.

In her proposed resolution, Koa quoted Section 17 of the law which states that the barangay "shall be responsible for ensuring that a 100-percent collection (of solid waste) is achieved."

RA 9003 also mentions "prohibited acts punishable by law" such as littering, throwing and dumping of wastes in public places such as roads, sidewalks, canals, parks, etc.

The Solid Waste Management Act was passed by Congress to counter the effects of the garbage crisis that hit Metro Manila two years ago. The crisis resulted from the closure of the San Mateo landfill in Rizal.

The City Council passed Koa's bill in the first reading during its session last Tuesday.

The proposal was referred to the committees on laws, environmental protection and barangay affairs.

Jerome Aning

METROBRIEFS

Bomber hunted

MANILA policemen are tracking down the suspects in the bombing of a commercial and residential compound in Ermita, Manila on Saturday. Police said the improvised bomb exploded at 8:40 a.m. below a water tank at the back of Golden Stary Money Changing Shop owned by Antonio Romero on A. Mabini Street. Western Police District director Col. Pedro Bulaong said the bombing was not an attack by terrorists or members of the New People's Army. He said it could have been an attempt at arson. He said that last Wednesday, unidentified men tried to set the compound on fire but residents chased them away. Saturday's bomb did not set off a fire but caused minor damage to the money shop and nearby establishments, police said.

Jerome Aning

Butcher killed

BUTCHER Antonio Corpuz, 42, of Sapang Kangkong, Old Balara, Quezon City, was killed after his brother-in-law Emmanuel Basas, 30, hit him in the head several times with a crowbar last Wednesday night, police said. Corpuz's wife said Basas got mad at her husband for making noise while he was drunk. She said the noise awakened Basas and went inside the Corpuz house with the crowbar. She said Basas beat her husband with the crowbar and then fled.

Alcuin Papa

Café robbed

SPACE Cyber Computer Rentals in Quezon City was robbed of its hardware Wednesday night, police said. Josie Tan-Alfabora, owner of the Internet cafe, told police the theft occured between midnight on Wednesday and 10:30 a.m. the next day while the shop was closed. She said she discovered the theft when she arrived Thursday morning to open the shop. She said the lock on the front door had been destroyed. The thieves took nine computers and their monitors worth about P315,000, she said.

Alcuin Papa

Raped

SUSPECTED rapist Rodel Bueno, 35, of Arugan Chapel in Tangos, Navotas, was accused of raping his 16-year-old stepdaughter for three years. P01 Arlene Odsinada of the Navotas Police Women's and Children's desk said that according to the girl, Bueno was usually drunk when he raped her in her room and threatened to kill her if she told anyone of the rapes. Police said the girl's mother caught Bueno naked in her daughter's room last week.

Tina Santos

Marikina puts best foot forward

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE 46.50-meter-high Statue of Liberty could make do with a new pair of shoes, a pair that is sturdy, reliable and made in Marikina City.

Marikina, which is trying to recapture its glory as the country's shoe-making capital, aims for world fame as 10 craftsmen from the city create what they hope to be recognized as the biggest pair of shoes in the world, so big it can fit the feet of the Statue of Liberty in New York City.

The shoes when completed will be 5.5 meters long, 2 meters wide and 1.98 meters high. The pair is the country's bid for the title the biggest pair of shoes in the Guinness Book of World Records, according to Marikina Mayor Marides Fernando.

Zahit Okular of Turkey currently holds the world record for making the biggest right-foot shoe for men, which is 3.1 meters long.

The pair that is being produced by the 10-man team of the Marikina Colossal Footwear Foundation is size-753, based on the French standard.

The average Filipino shoe size is 7 or 8. The record-breaking pair being created in Marikina should fit someone, or something, that is 125 feet tall.

Tasked to beat the Turkish shoemaker's record are Noel Cox, Daniel Cotter, Florinio de Asis, Rommel Villareal, Emmanuel Samson, Arthur Rivera, Arman Javier, Norman Arada, Cesar Paz and architect Ernesto Leano.

"Our shoes will be so big that they can accommodate 30 full-grown men," said Fernando in a recent news conference in Quezon City.

The pair could be sold for approximately P700,000 or $14,000, she said.

She said the giant shoes, whose production cost is estimated at P2 million, are expected to draw attention to the Philippines and to Marikina City.

"The shoes will help promote the unique designs, creativity and quality of Marikina-made footwear," Mayor Fernando said. On Oct. 21, two representatives of the Guinness Book of World Records will fly to Manila to look at Marikina's shoes.

The pair of shoes, which is scheduled to be unveiled tomorrow, is the highlight of Marikina's first Sapatero Festival. The shoes will be paraded all over the city and then displayed at the Marikina River Park where Ballet Philippines will also stage a show called "Shoe."

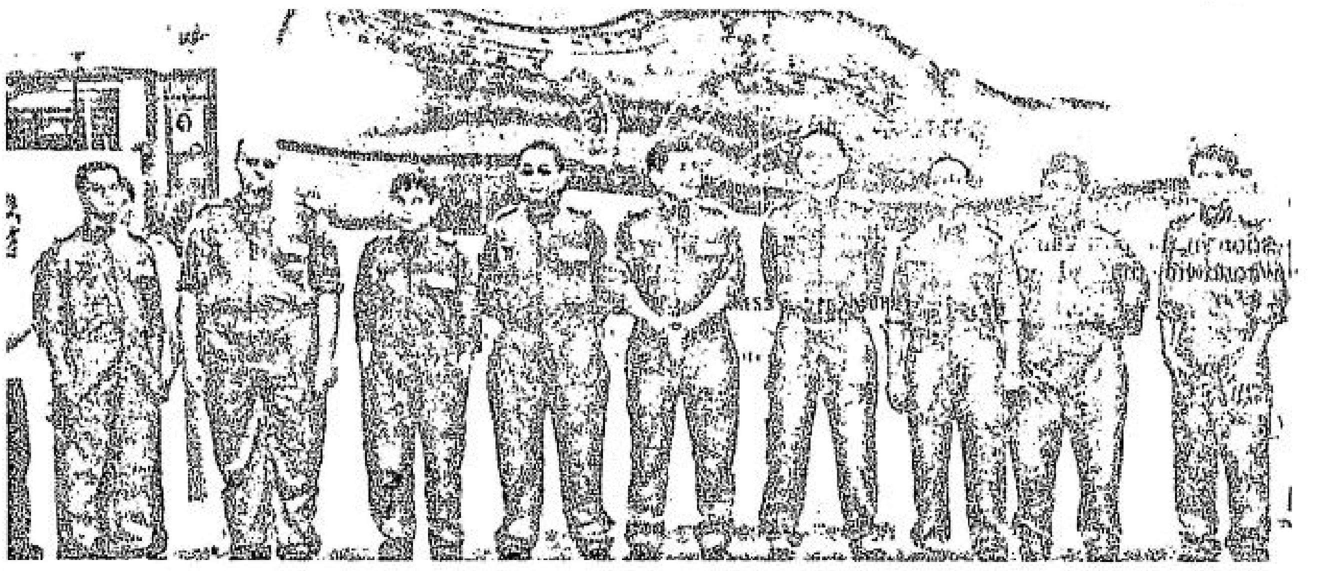
"It will be a very fun occasion, night after night of partying," Fernando said of the week-long celebration.

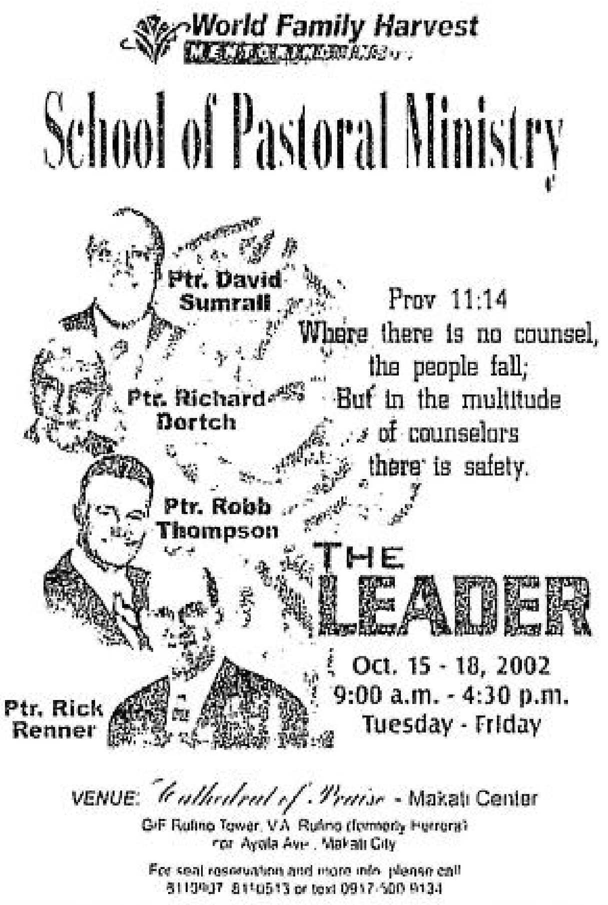
The pair that might soon be named the world's largest is made of genuine leather. It has so far consumed 320 square feet of leather for the upper lining and 320 sq ft of leather for the lower lining, 80 sq ft for the sock lining, as well as 250 kg of vegetable-tanned leather for the insole, 270 kg of tanned leather for the outsole and 80 kg for the welt.

The pair has an insole with a 12-meter perimeter and 16-inch-high heels. It is consuming 225 kg of adhesive and 1,000 meters of thread.

The materials used to create the humongous pair can produce 250 pairs of regular shoes, according to the creators.

> The materials used to create the humongous pair can produce 250 pairs of regular shoes, according to the creators


THE shoemakers are creating a pair that is expected to cost P2 million when completed.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the people fall;
But in the multitude
of counselors
there is safety.
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War-time Philippines recreated in Gold Coast

By Norma Japitana

THE PLACE is a regular Philippine rural village, complete with nipa huts, a scenic riverbank, carabaos, horses and cows and coconut trees. The only difference is that this Philippine village, made to look like the old Cabanatuan, is in the Gold Coast in Australia and it takes the awesome machinery of a Hollywood company like Miramax to set it up.

Daily, around 200 technical men, crew and production assistants are working shifts to make this set work.

Actors Cesar Montano and Paolo Montalban, both staying at Xanadu Hotel Resort, are picked up at 6 a.m. by driver Darren who keeps an ongoing commentary on the happenings on the set. Rommel Montano and I join the group to go to the set. At the next hotel, we pick up hot young American actor James Franco, who quietly sits in front. It is a 45-minute ride to the set.

Cesar and James have been assigned their own trailers, with the names of their characters on the door: James' trailer has "Capt. Prince" and Cesar's has "Pajota." Next to Cesar's is the John Dahl trailer with the director's name on it.

It is a very hot day with a cold wind but the trailer is comfortable with air conditioning, TV and component, bed and toilet and bath. But Cesar seldom gets the chance to enjoy the amenities. As soon as we arrive he is made up and driven to the set.

There are many satellite sets around the area. His is near the riverbank where actor Benjamin Bratt and director Dahl are already rehearsing the first scenes. Cesar waits for his first take.

Accident

Benjamin is known here for his role in "Piñero," and James for his role as the best friend of Spiderman. We hear that James will be big next year. He just finished a film where he plays the addict-son of Robert de Niro. The film is scheduled for release this year.

Joseph Fienes is unforgettable in "Shakespeare in Love." But Joseph is not on the set today. He had an accident while surfing when his board hit his face and he had to be hospitalized and stitched. But he is healing fast and is scheduled on the set the next day.

Connie Nielsen is the leading lady. She is known for her role as the leading lady of Russel Crowe in the "Gladiator." She is beautiful and very tall. She is shooting in another satellite set, playing a New York socialite who goes underground during the war to look for her fiance (Joseph) who is captured and imprisoned in Cabanatuan.

Another important role is played by Filipina Natalie Mendoza who is known for her role in "Miss Saigon." Natalie is based in Sydney. She has asked Cesar to help her with her Filipino. She plays Mina, a nurse who is helping the guerrillas.

Some of the sets are across the river and to get there we are helped by Nikko MacKintosh, who leads us around the different sets. Nikko is Filipino but he has lived in Sydney since he was 12. He has the looks of an actor and speaks with the Australian twang.

Why MacKintosh? I ask him. "My stepfather. I never met my father. His family name is Villanueva."

A friend had pushed Nikko to apply to the production. "I was surprised when the call came that I could start working!"

He wants to come home to Manila after the shooting.

Carabaos

Another Filipino on the set is Ebong Joson, who also plays the role of "Joson" in the film. He is basically a stage actor and a radio talent. He got the role by auditioning like Cesar. He did not realize at first that his role was a big one, one of Cesar's guerrillas.

Ebong is based in Manila and should be home by now.

Another interesting feature of this production is the buffalo department with Graham Hefferman and Mike McLean as head trainers. According to the production notes that day: "When we have more than 6, or multiple buffalos in carts, we will also have a licensed shooter with a tranquilizer gun as an added precaution. Do not feel inclined to pat the buffalos. They may look harmless but they are wild feral animals undergoing training and should be treated as such!"

The cast, like Joseph Fienes, James Franco, Benjamin Bratt, Cesar and Paolo, work for 12 hours. If you are picked up at 6 a.m., you are let go at 6 p.m.

We ride with Paolo back to Xanadu. We all go home in a happy mood.

Later, Cesar takes his wife Sunshine Cruz, Rommel and myself to Mano's for dinner. There we meet Col. Dale Dye, the military consultant who choreographs all the war scenes. He also plotted the scenes for "Band of Brothers."

Col. Dye, with his white hair and physique, can be a double for Harrison Ford. He mentions that he will be doing another big movie, "Iwo Jima." With a wink, he told us that Cesar has a role in it if he is interested.

"CABANATUAN" is complete with nipa huts and farm animals.

CESAR Montano, who plays a guerrilla leader, is prepared by a production staffer for a shoot.

DIRECTOR John Dahl (left) with James Franco and Cesar Montano.

Acoustic bands at Suburbia

THIS month, Suburbia Malate has some of the countless best acoustic performers and bands taking center stage for evenings filled with unadulterated music every Tuesday.

Tomorrow night, Oct. 15, catch fast-rising artists Jimmy Bondoc and Nina render soothing acoustic pop tunes.

Oct. 22, alternative rock pervades with Velcro's strong line-up of music from the Goo Goo Dolls, Gin Blossoms, Creed and U2, while hitmaker Aiza Seguerra takes centerstage Oct. 29.

Other favorite bands in the roster are Freestyle on Mondays, 7th Soul back to back with Freestyle (Oct. 16) and South Border (Oct. 23 and 30) on Wednesdays, Awit Awards best new male artist Malik on Thursdays.

Weekends are still power-packed with Mullato and Escape on Fridays and Elements with Freeverse on Saturdays.

For inquiries, call Suburbia Malate at 450-1685 or 86.

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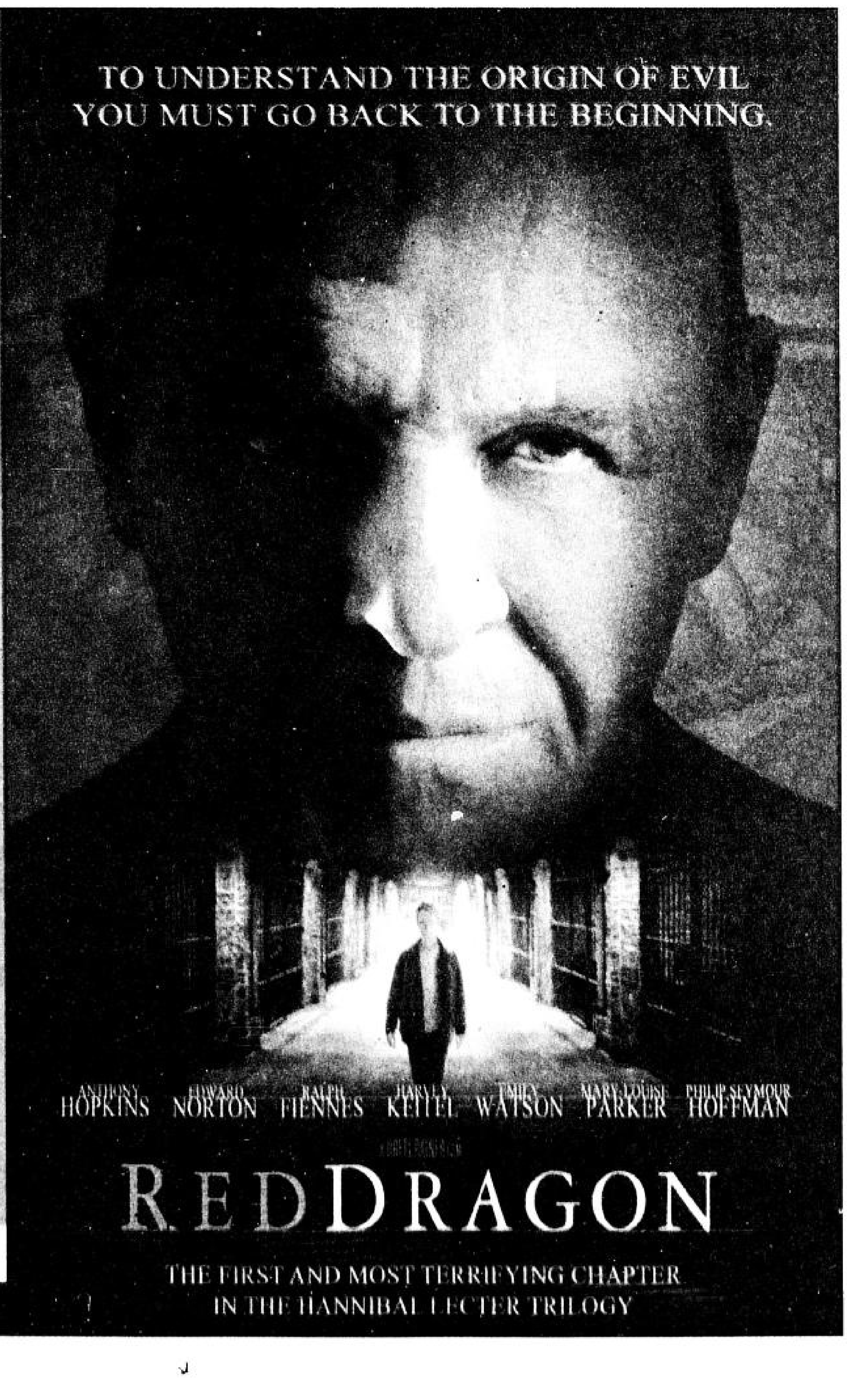
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Henry Omaga Diaz survives terror at sea and becomes part of history

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

"EVERYBODY (at ABS-CBN) wants to be on 'TV Patrol'," says anchor **Henry Omaga-Diaz.** "Some would even kill to be in my place."

After more than a decade of doing field work on ABS-CBN, Henry was given the biggest break in his broadcasting career when he was made to anchor the network's early evening newscast with **Korina Sanchez.**

For Henry, who didn't imagine himself as a news anchor, doing "TV Patrol" is indeed a big leap.

"I was contented doing field work, going to lots of places and meeting different people," Henry says. "I never imagined myself anchoring 'TV Patrol'."

He admits he had the jitters the first time he faced the TV cameras last March when he started doing the early evening Filipino newscast. Although he had done pinch-hitting chores for **Noli de Castro** in "Magandang Gabi, Bayan," Henry felt the pressure of anchoring a newscast for the first time.

"Initially, I didn't want the responsibility," Henry says. "On my first day, my knees were shaking. As anchor, you lead the efforts of the entire newsroom for the day. If you don't do well, the efforts of the news team will be put to waste. They'll be disappointed. But now, I realized that's part of the pressure."

De Castro was a big factor in convincing Henry to accept the "TV Patrol" job.

"He said I had to do it," Henry says. "It's hard to say no to him. It's hard to say no to this kind of opportunity. Management must have noticed the work that I was doing on the field."

Good friend

Before "TV Patrol," Henry co-anchored the late-night newscast, "Headline," with **Karen Davila.**

Henry admits that Korina has helped him overcome the jitters and ease the tension before the cameras.

"She (Korina) is a good friend," Henry says of Korina. "She gives me advice on how to do things as far as anchoring a newscast is concerned. She is a good friend. You ought to know her personally to see her softer side."

Asked how he survives the dog-eat-dog world inside the network, Henry says, "I mind my own business, concentrate on what I do and focus my efforts on only the important things. That should also keep you out of trouble."

Henry is known at ABS-CBN as a quiet and modest guy whose only passions are country, Western and rock music. After studio or field work, he prefers to go straight home to his wife of 16 years, **Gigi Cabigon,** and their 15-year-old son **Nikolo.**

The fourth of seven children, Henry was named after the erstwhile executive vice president of Cosmos Bottling Co., **Henry Wong,** who was the boss of his father. Among the Diaz siblings, only Henry pursued a broadcasting career. Younger brother **Dong** is a noted fashion designer.

Veritas

Henry initially took up economics at the University of Sto. Tomas, but later shifted to journalism at Lyceum of the Philippines where his classmates include the likes of INQUIRER editor **Nilo Paurom,** dzMM **Deo Macalma** and movie scribes **Anselle Beluso** and **Cristy Fermin.**

While at Lyceum, Henry had his practicum at Radio Veritas, where he later started his broadcasting career.

"I'm proud to have covered major political events in the country for Radio Veritas, including the 1983 assassination of **Ninoy Aquino,** his funeral march and the 1986 Edsa Revolution," Henry says.

After 10 years with Veritas, Henry moved to dzMM, the AM radio station of ABS-CBN in 1991. Three years later, he was doing on-cam work as a field reporter for "TV Patrol."

Today, even if he anchors "TV Patrol," Henry still does field work. "It keeps me on my toes," he says.

Terror at sea

His most frightening experience as a broadcast journalist is when he was lost at sea for five days while going to the Spratlys in 1995.

"I was with two cameramen and five fishermen in a pump boat and the people in the network feared we were dead," Henry recalls.

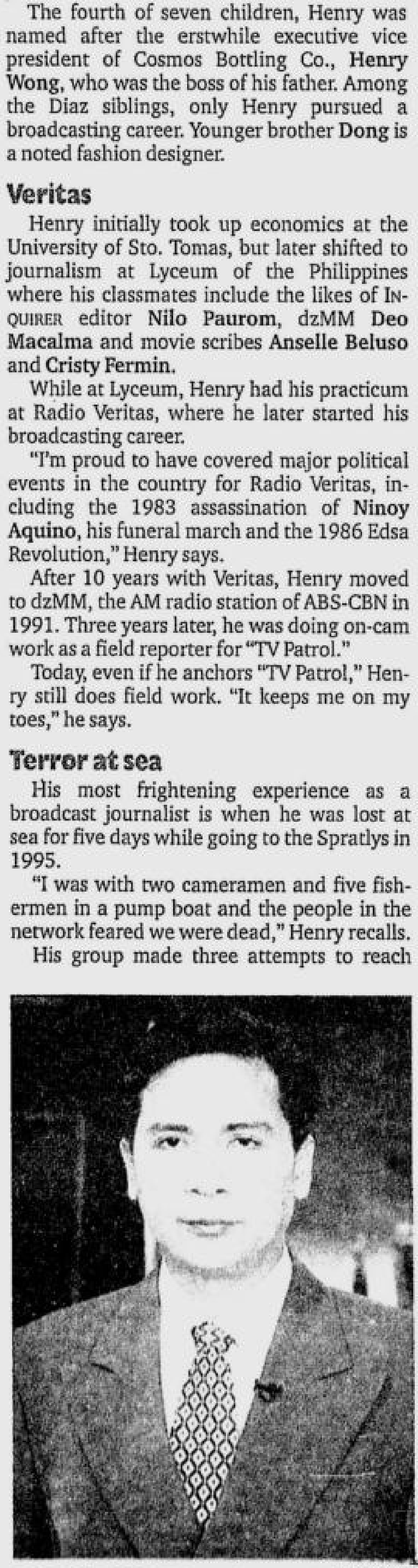
His group made three attempts to reach the Spratlys, despite strict orders from General **Carlos Tañega,** who was then Western Command chief, not to go there on their own.

"When Tañega didn't allow us to go with the Philippine Navy, we organized our own team to go to the Spratlys," Henry grants. "With the help of a politician, we took off from Southern Palawan, which is the take-off point to the Spratlys."

Their first trip was foiled by Tañega, who learned about it through the owner of the hotel where they were staying. But that didn't stop Henry and his group from organizing a second journey using a different boat.

"After the Philippine passage, we discovered several miles off Palawan that there was a leak on our boat so we had to turn back. We waited five days for the boat to be repaired before we made our third attempt. At that time, we learned Tañega had sent intelligence agents to track us down.

HENRY/ A39



ANCHOR MAN. Diaz makes sure his feet are firmly planted on the ground.

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G1 GLORIETTA
1 THE TUXEDO
2 THE TOUCH
3 MR. DEEDS
4 BESTMAN

G4 GLORIETTA 4
1 BLOOD WORK
2 THE TOUCH
3 THE TUXEDO 1:15, 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30
4 "O"
5 BIRTHDAY GIRL
6 MR. DEEDS
7 FRAILTY

GB1 GREENBELT 1
1 STORYTELLING EXCLUSIVE 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
MAX KEEBLE'S BIG MOVE (EXCLUSIVE) 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
[illegible]
MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE (THE REPEAT)
OCT. 18-19, 25-26

GB3 GREENBELT 3
MR. DEEDS 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:15
THE TUXEDO 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:15
THE TOUCH 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:15
4 FRAILTY 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:25, 11:30
SPY KIDS 2 11:00, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30 7:30, 9:30, 11:30

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 MR. DEEDS
2 BLOODWORK
3 THE TUXEDO
4 0
5 FRAILTY

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3 (DTS) TUXEDO
4 GOLD(DTS) TUXEDO
5 GOLD(DOLBY) FRAILTY
6 GOLD(SDDS) BLOOD WORK
7 GOLD(DOLBY) MR. DEEDS
8 PROSTI
9 BESTMAN
10 TOUCH

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1
2
3 (DTS)
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

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1 BESTMAN
2 TOUCH
3 PROSTI
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) TUXEDO
5 HUBAD NA MULTO

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tel 850.4285
1 PROSTI
2 HUBAD NA MULTO
3 BESTMAN
4 TUXEDO
5 LOLLIPOP
6 BLOOD WORK
7
8

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010 to13
MR. DEEDS
OCT. 10 TO 11, SCREENING TIME: 6:00, 8:30 PM
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Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 REIGN OF FIRE
2 ROAD TO PERDITION

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4

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4 PROSTI
5 BESTMAN
6 FRAILTY
7 (DTS) BLOOD WORK
8 (SDDS) MR. DEEDS
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5 MR. DEEDS
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8 BESTMAN
9 TUXEDO

Gotesco Commonwealth
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4 LOLLIPOP
5 (SDDS) MR. DEEDS
6 (DTS) BESTMAN
7 (DOLBY) TUXEDO
8 PROSTI

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1 BESTMAN
2 HUBAD NA MULTO
3 (DTS) MR. DEEDS
4 PROSTI
5 (SDDS) TUXEDO

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(Cubao) tel 911.7888
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1 BESTMAN
2 TOUCH
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1 (DOLBY) TUXEDO
2 HUBAD NA MULTO
3 BLOOD WORK
4 BESTMAN
5 LOLLIPOP

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 LOLLIPOP
2 BESTMAN

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400
1 BESTMAN
2 PROSTI
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) TOUCH
4 (SDDS) MR. DEEDS
5 (DTS) TUXEDO
6 BLOOD WORK
7 0

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400
1 TOUCH
2 BESTMAN

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Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 BESTMAN
2 MR. DEEDS
3 (DTS) TUXEDO

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7983
1 PROSTI
2 (DTS) MR. DEEDS
3 (DOLBY) TUXEDO
4 BESTMAN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 BESTMAN
2 (DOLBY) MR. DEEDS
3 (DTS) TUXEDO
4 PROSTI

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 PROSTI
2 TUXEDO
3 SPY KIDS
4 RESERVE

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729
1 PROSTI
2 TUXEDO
3 (DOLBY) ENOUGH
4 (DTS) ROAD TO PERDITION

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305
1 (DOLBY EX) TUXEDO
2 (DTS) PROSTI
3 ENOUGH

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 BESTMAN
2 HUBAD NA MULTO
3 LOLLIPOP
4 VOODOO

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) TUXEDO
2 BESTMAN
3 (DTS) MR. DEEDS
4 KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
5 PROSTI

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 BESTMAN
2 PROSTI
3 MR. DEEDS

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558
1 TUXEDO
2 BESTMAN
3 MR. DEEDS

Mega Center Mall
(044) 463-3283
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3233
1 BESTMAN
2 PROSTI
3 (DTS) ENOUGH
4 (DOLBY) ROAD TO PERDITION

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
2 (DTS) RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 PROSTI
2 BESTMAN
3 REIGN OF FIRE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 BESTMAN
2 TUXEDO
3 BIRTHDAY GIRL
4 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
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2 BESTMAN
3 (DTS) TUXEDO
4 PROSTI

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8 MR. DEEDS

SM CENTERPOINT
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1 BESTMAN
2 0
3 MR. DEEDS
4 LOLLIPOP
5 THE TUXEDO
6 FRAILTY
7 THE TOUCH
8 SPY KIDS 2
9 BLOOD WORK
10 PROSTI

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749
1 0
2 BLOOD WORK
3 PROSTI
4 THE TOUCH
5 MR. DEEDS
6 BESTMAN
7 THE TUXEDO
8 FRAILTY
9 BIRTHDAY GIRL
10 HUBAD NA MULTO
11 SPY KIDS 2
12 LOLLIPOP

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 FRAILTY
2 THE TUXEDO
3 0
4 MR. DEEDS
5 THE TOUCH
6 THE TUXEDO
7 LOLLIPOP
8 BLOODWORK
9 BESTMAN
10 ENOUGH
11 BIRTHDAY GIRL
12 PROSTI

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401
1 THE TUXEDO
2 BLOOD WORK
3 THE TOUCH
4 MR. DEEDS
5 FRAILTY
6 0
7 BIRTHDAY GIRL
8 SPY KIDS 2
9 BESTMAN
10 THE TUXEDO
11 PROSTI
12 LOLLIPOP

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 PROSTI
2 FRAILTY
3 LOLLIPOP
4 BESTMAN
5 MR. DEEDS
6 THE TOUCH
7 BLOOD WORK
8 THE TUXEDO

SM SOUTHMALL
8098888
1 FRAILTY
2 BLOOD WORK
3 THE TUXEDO
4 MR. DEEDS
5 HUBAD NA MULTO
6 PROSTI
7 BESTMAN
8 THE TOUCH
9 0
10 LOLLIPOP

SM CITY CEBU
2313075
1 SPIDER
2 ENOUGH
3 TUXEDO
4 SIMONE
5 REVELATION
6 PROSTI
7 BESTMAN
8 THE TUXEDO

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 REVELATION
2 CLOSED
3 K-19
4 BESTMAN
5 ENOUGH
6 THE TUXEDO
7 CLOSED
8 SIMONE

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 THE TUXEDO
2 MR. DEEDS
3 SPY KIDS 2
4 PROSTI
5 BIRTHDAY GIRL
6 BESTMAN

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
1 MR. DEEDS
2 THE TOUCH
3 THE TUXEDO
4 BESTMAN

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 THE TOUCH
2 BESTMAN
3 THE TUXEDO
4 MR. DEEDS

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998
1 REVELATION
2 SIMONE
3 BESTMAN
4 SPY KIDS 2
5 THE TUXEDO
6 ENOUGH

SM BICUTAN
1
2
3
4
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SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1
2
3
4
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1 BLOOD WORK
10:50 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/10.35 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:55 END

2 MR. DEEDS
10:10 FS/10:30 MF/12:35/2:40/4:45/6:50/8:55/10:40 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:45 END

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10:10 MF, 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10 LMF, 0:50 END
2 MR. DEEDS
3 BESTMAN
4 FRAILTY
5 TUXEDO
6 "O"
7 BIRTHDAY GIRL
8 THE TOUCH
9 BLOOD WORK
10 ENOUGH

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Ermita
536 -7809- 12
1 RESERVED
2 BLOOD WORK
3 FRAILTY
4 "O"
5 BESTMAN
6 MR. DEEDS
7 TUXEDO

Metro East -
Marcos hway
682- 8193 / 8280
1 BLOOD WORK
2 TUXEDO
3 "O"
4 BIRTHDAY GIRL
5 THE TOUCH
6 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
7 MR. DEEDS
8 PROSTI

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30
1 BLOOD WORK
2 TUXEDO
3 BIRTHDAY GIRL
4 "O"
5 THE TOUCH
6 FRAILTY
7 MR. DEEDS
8 BESTMAN

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838
1 TUXEDO
2 BESTMAN
3 BLOOD WORK
4 MR. DEEDS
5 "O"
6 THE TOUCH

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459
1 TUXEDO
2 ORAGNE COUNTY
3 ENOUGH
4 K-19 THE WIDOW MAKER
5 VOO DOO
6 TUKAAN

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78
1 TUXEDO
2 ENOUGH
3 K-19 THE WIDOW MAKER
4 REVELATIONS
5 SIMONE
6 BESTMAN

Star Mills-
Sn. Fernando, Pamp.
875- 1927
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1 VOO DOO
2 HIGH RISK
3 MR. DEEDS
4 BESTMAN
5 TUXEDO
6 MR. DEEDS

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1 THE TUXEDO
2 THE TOUCH
3 MR. DEEDS
4 BESTMAN

G4 GLORIETTA 4
1 BLOOD WORK
2 THE TOUCH
3 THE TUXEDO 12:15, 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30
4 "O"
5 BIRTHDAY GIRL
6 MR. DEEDS
7 FRAILTY

GB1 GREENBELT 1
STORYTELLING EXCLUSIVE 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
MAX KEEBLE'S BIG MOVE (EXCLUSIVE) 11:30, 1:30,3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE (THE REPEAT) OCT. 18-19, 25-26

GB3 GREENBELT 3
MR. DEEDS 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:15
THE TUXEDO 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 11:15
THE TOUCH 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:15
FRAILTY 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:25, 11:30
SPY KIDS 2 11:00, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 MR. DEEDS
2 BLOODWORK
3 THE TUXEDO
4 0
5 FRAILTY

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1
2 DEEC
3 UXED
4 UXED
5 FRAILT
6 BLOOD WOF
7 MR. DEEDS
8 PROSTI
9 BESTMAN
10 TOUCH

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1
2
3
4
5
6
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana Cinema 1 2 3
(Pasay) tel 833.3300, 833.3374
1 BESTMAN
2 LOLLIPOP
3 TUXEDO

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1 BESTMAN
2 TOUCH
3 PROSTI
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) TUXEDO
5 HUBAD NA MULTO

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285
1 PROSTI
2 HUBAD NA MULTO
3 BESTMAN
4 TUXEDO
5 LOLLIPOP
6 BLOOD WORK
7
8

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751 2010 to 13
MR. DEEDS
OCT. 10 TO 11, SCREENING TIME : 6:00, 8:30 PM
OCT. 12 TO 13, SCREENING TIME : 3:00, 6:00, 8:00 PM.

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 REIGN OF FIRE
2 ROAD TO PERDITION

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tel 930.9515
1 RESERVE
2 BESTMAN
3 LOLLIPOP

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(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 SPY KIDS
2 HUBAD NA MULTO
3 MY TEACHERS WIFE
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8508
1
4
5
6
7
8
9

Gotesco Caloocan
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2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928
1 BESTMAN
2 PROSTI
3 LOLLIPOP
4 TUXEDO
5 MR. DEEDS
6 TOUCH
7 HUBAD NA MULTO
8 BESTMAN
9 TUXEDO

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6 BESTMAN
7 TUXEDO
8 PROSTI

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2 HUBAD NA MULTO
3 MR. DEEDS
4 PROSTI
5 TUXEDO

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 BESTMAN

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 BESTMAN

Dilson
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Jennet LOLLIPOP

Marketplace
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 533.3856
1 BESTMAN
2 TOUCH
3 TUXEDO

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) TUXEDO
2 HUBAD NA MULTO
3 BLOOD WORK
4 BESTMAN
5 LOLLIPOP

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 879.2029
1 LOLLIPOP
2 BESTMAN

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta

Ali MALL CINEPLEX
tel 911.3101 loc. 821 8242 8400
1 BESTMAN
2 PROSTI
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) TOUCH
4 (SDDS) MR. DEEDS
5 (DTS) TUXEDO
6 BLOOD WORK
7 O

Farmers Plaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821 8242 8400
1 TOUCH
2 BESTMAN

Cinema 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 534.2190
1 BESTMAN
2 MR. DEEDS
3 (DTS) TUXEDO

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7983
1 PROSTI
2 (DTS) MR DEEDS
3 (DOLBY) TUXEDO
4 BESTMAN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 BESTMAN
2 (DOLBY) MR. DEEDS
3 (DTS) TUXEDO
4 PROSTI

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 PROSTI
2 TUXEDO
3 SPY KIDS
4 RESERVE

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 PROSTI
2 TUXEDO
3 (DOLBY) ENOUGH
4 (DTS) ROAD TO PERDITION

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305
1 (DOLBY EX) TUXEDO
2 DTS) PROSTI
3 ENOUGH

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 BESTMAN
2 HUBAD NA MULTO
3 LOLLIPOP
4 VOODOO

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) TUXEDO
2 BESTMAN
3 (DTS) MR. DEEDS
4 KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
5 PROSTI

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 BESTMAN
2 PROSTI
3 MR. DEEDS

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558
1 TUXEDO
2 BESTMAN
3 MR DEEDS

Mega Center Mall
(044) 463-3283
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3233
1 BESTMAN
2 PROSTI
3 (DTS) ENOUGH
4 (DOLBY) ROAD TO PERDITION

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
2 RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 PROSTI
2 BESTMAN
3 REIGN OF FIRE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 BESTMAN
2 TUXEDO
3 BIRTHDAY GIRL
4 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY) MR. DEEDS
2 BESTMAN
3 (DTS) TUXEDO
4 PROSTI

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4173888
1 SPY KIDS 2
2 HUBAD NA MULTO
3 THE TOUCH
4 BLOOD WORK
5 THE TUXEDO
6 BESTMAN
7 LOLLIPOP
8 MR. DEEDS

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7101416
1 BESTMAN
2 0
3 MR. DEEDS
4 LOLLIPOP
5 THE TUXEDO
6 FRAILTY
7 THE TOUCH
8 SPY KIDS 2
9 BLOOD WORK
10 PROSTI

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350740
1 0
2 BLOOD WORK
3 PROSTI
4 THE TOUCH
5 MR. DEEDS
6 BESTMAN
7 THE TUXEDO
8 FRAILTY
9 BIRTHDAY GIRL
10 HUBAD NA MULTO
11 SPY KIDS 2
12 LOLLIPOP

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 FRAILTY
2 THE TUXEDO
3 0
4 MR. DEEDS
5 THE TOUCH
6 THE TUXEDO
7 LOLLIPOP
8 BLOODWORK
9 BESTMAN
10 ENOUGH
11 BIRTHDAY GIRL
12 PROSTI

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401
1 THE TUXEDO
2 BLOOD WORK
3 THE TOUCH
4 MR. DEEDS
5 FRAILTY
6 0
7 BIRTHDAY GIRL
8 SPY KIDS 2
9 BESTMAN
10 THE TUXEDO
11 PROSTI
12 LOLLIPOP

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 PROSTI
2 FRAILTY
3 LOLLIPOP
4 BESTMAN
5 MR. DEEDS
6 THE TOUCH
7 BLOOD WORK
8 THE TUXEDO

SM SOUTHMALL
8008888
1 FRAILTY
2 BLOOD WORK
3 THE TUXEDO
4 MR. DEEDS
5 HUBAD NA MULTO
6 PROSTI
7 BESTMAN
8 THE TOUCH
9 0
10 LOLLIPOP

SM CITY CEBU
2313076
1 SPIDER
2 ENOUGH
3 TUXEDO
4 SIMONE
5 REVELATION
6 PROSTI
7 BESTMAN
8 THE TUXEDO

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 REVELATION
2 CLOSED
3 K-19
4 BESTMAN
5 ENOUGH
6 THE TUXEDO
7 CLOSED
8 SIMONE

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128016
1 THE TUXEDO
2 MR. DEEDS
3 SPY KIDS 2
4 PROSTI
5 BIRTHDAY GIRL
6 BESTMAN

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
1 MR. DEEDS
2 THE TOUCH
3 THE TUXEDO
4 BESTMAN

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 THE TOUCH
2 BESTMAN
3 THE TUXEDO
4 MR. DEEDS

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998
1 REVELATION
2 SIMONE
3 BESTMAN
4 SPY KIDS 2
5 THE TUXEDO
6 ENOUGH

SM BICUTAN
1
2
3
4
SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1
2
3
4
SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM
633-8976
1 BLOOD WORK
10:50 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/10.35 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:55 END
2 MR. DEEDS
10:10 FS/10:30 MF/12:35/2:40/4:45/6.50/8:55/10:40 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:45 END
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10:10 MF, 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10 LMF, 0:50 END
2 MR. DEEDS
3 BESTMAN
4 FRAILTY
5 TUXEDO
6 "O"
7 BIRTHDAY GIRL
8 THE TOUCH
9 BLOOD WORK
10 ENOUGH
MATINEE PRICE: P80 thx cinema / P65 1level cinemas
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Ermita 536-7809-12
1 RESERVED
2 BLOOD WORK
3 FRAILTY
4 "O"
5 BESTMAN
6 MR. DEEDS
7 TUXEDO

Metro East - Marcos hway 682-8193 / 8280
1 BLOOD WORK
2 TUXEDO
3 "O"
4 BIRTHDAY GIRL
5 THE TOUCH
6 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
7 MR. DEEDS
8 PROSTI

Novaliches 935-3229-30
1 BLOOD WORK
2 TUXEDO
3 BIRTHDAY GIRL
4 "O"
5 THE TOUCH
6 FRAILTY
7 MR. DEEDS
8 BESTMAN

Imus 471-8188 / 875-3838
1 TUXEDO
2 BESTMAN
3 BLOOD WORK
4 MR. DEEDS
5 "O"
6 THE TOUCH

Bacolod 441-0453 / 0459
1 TUXEDO
2 ORAGNE COUNTY
3 ENOUGH
4 K-19 THE WIDOW MAKER
5 VOO DOO
6 TUKAAN

Iloilo 336-8077-78
1 TUXEDO
2 ENOUGH
3 K-19 THE WIDOW MAKER
4 REVELATIONS
5 SIMONE
6 BESTMAN

Star Mills- Sn Fernando, Pamp. 875-1927 961-5318 / 5270
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2 HIGH RISK
3 MR. DEEDS
4 BESTMAN
5 TUXEDO
6 MR. DEEDS

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[illegible] WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Henry Omaga Diaz survives terror . . .

From page A37

"But we were not told that in the China Sea, there are seven days of calm, followed by seven days of rough seas. We experienced the tailend of the rough seas, with waves bigger than us hitting our boat. We had to tie ourselves to the boat and we were always wet."

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Temporary

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"I know the recognition or attention is very temporary," he maintains. "But being part of important events is something to be proud of. That's something you can share with your children and grandchildren. That's where the challenge is."

Star . . .

From page A40

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Now that male and female youths and young adults have a place on the show, we can expect the talent competition to be more interesting, varied and tougher—as it should have been from the very start.

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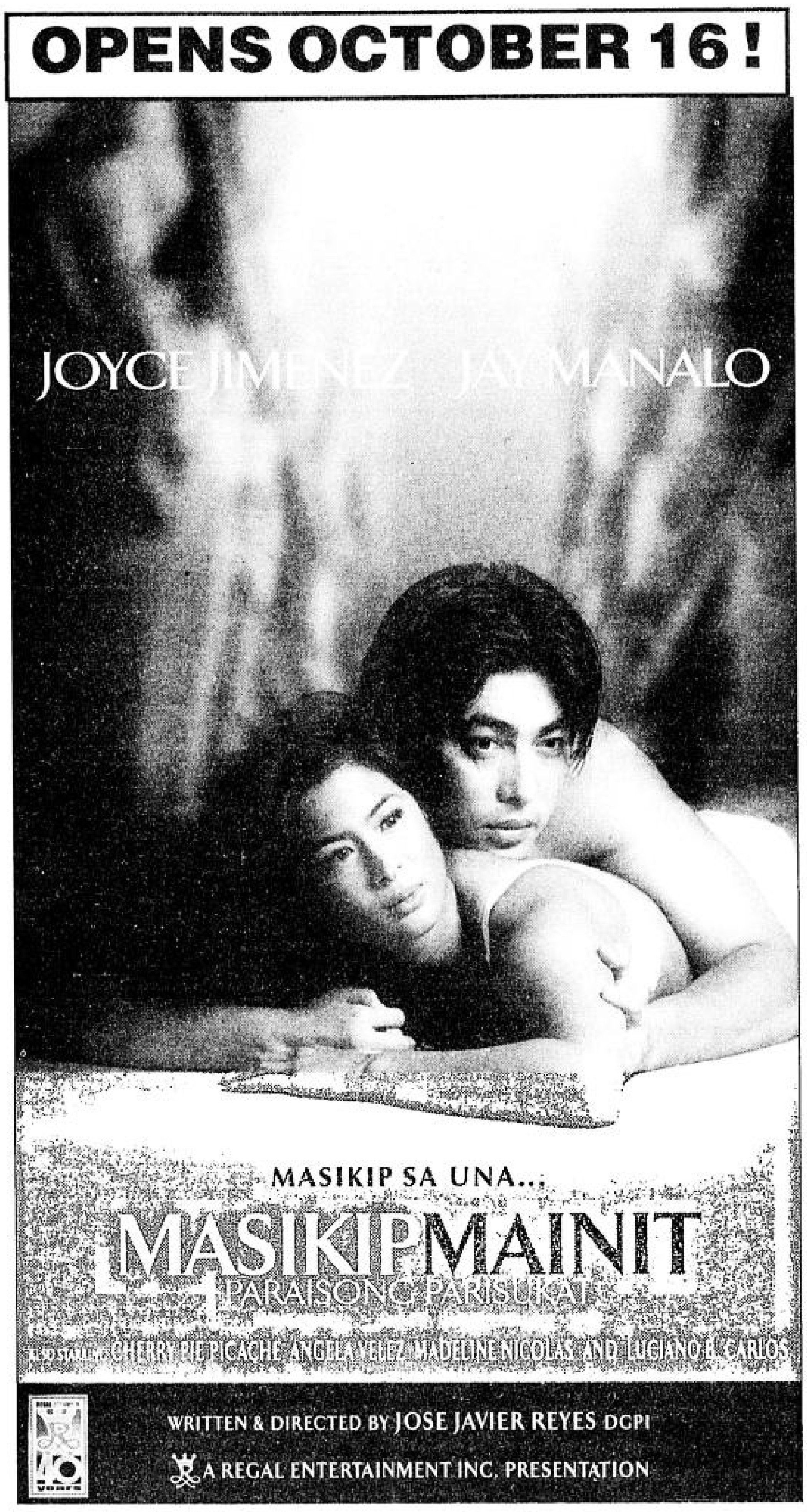
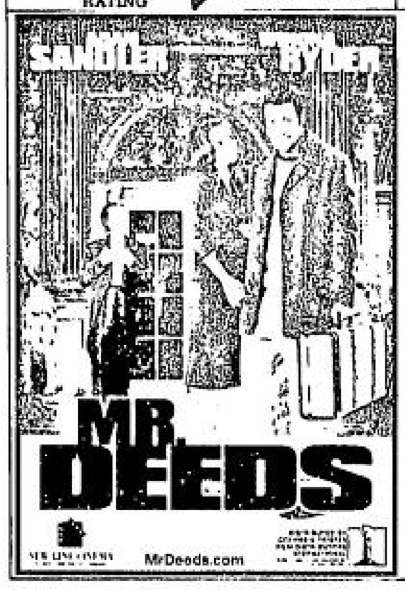

OPENS OCTOBER 16!
JOYCE JIMENEZ JAY MANALO
MASIKIP SA UNA...
MASIKIP MAINIT
PARAISONG PARISUKAT
CHERRY PIE PICACHE ANGELA VELEZ MADELINE NICOLAS AND LUCIANO B. CARLOS
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY JOSE JAVIER REYES DGPI
A REGAL ENTERTAINMENT INC. PRESENTATION


MTRCB RATING PG-13
SANDLER RYDER
MR. DEEDS
MrDeeds.com

Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
Laugh, fall in love!
NOW SHOWING

Adam Sandler is Longfellow Deeds, a lovable small-town guy who runs a pizzeria and writes greeting-card poems.

When he turns out to be the sole heir of a multi-billionaire, he moves to New York City where greedy businessmen try to take over the media empire he inherited.

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It's the most fun you'll have on a date movie!

BRING A DATE, the laughs are on MR. DEEDS.

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Brush up on everything from car care tips to automotive launches and innovations.
That's you and a million others reading the PDI, on and off the road
MOTORING
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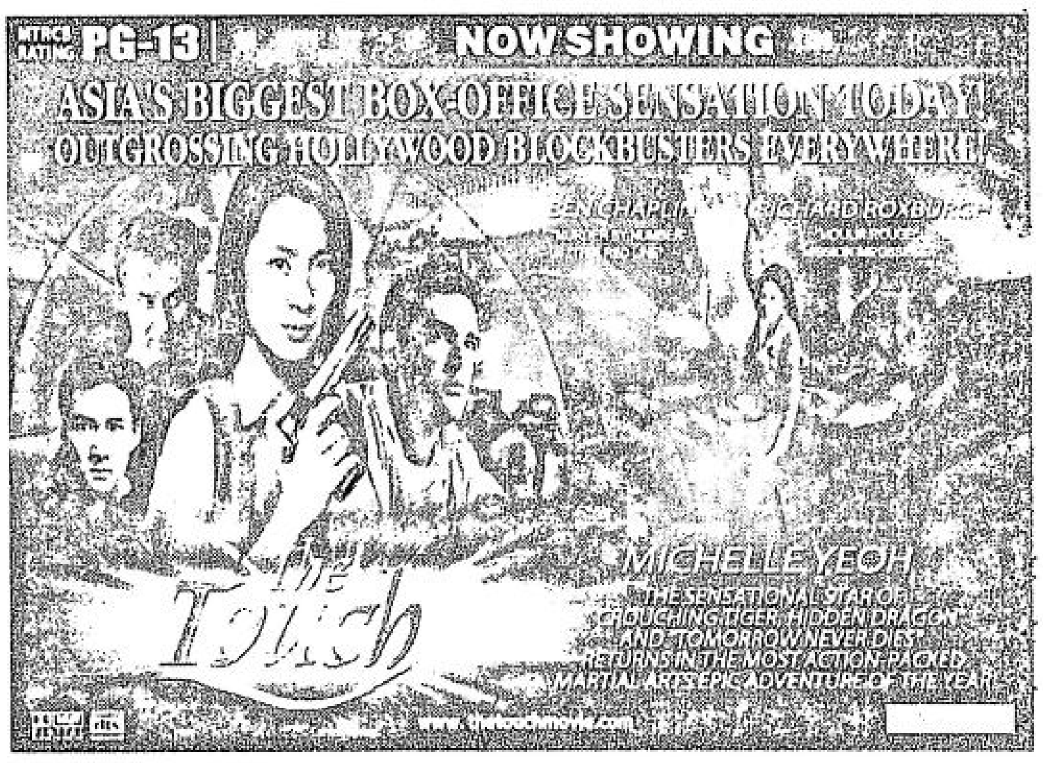
Special SECTIONS INQUIRER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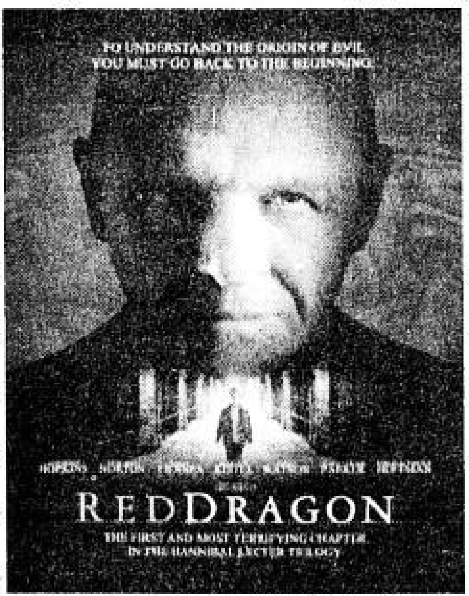
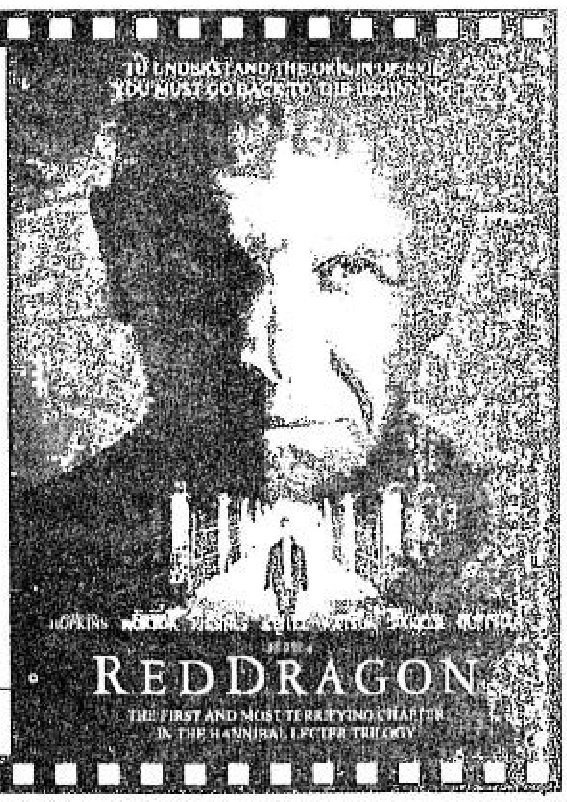
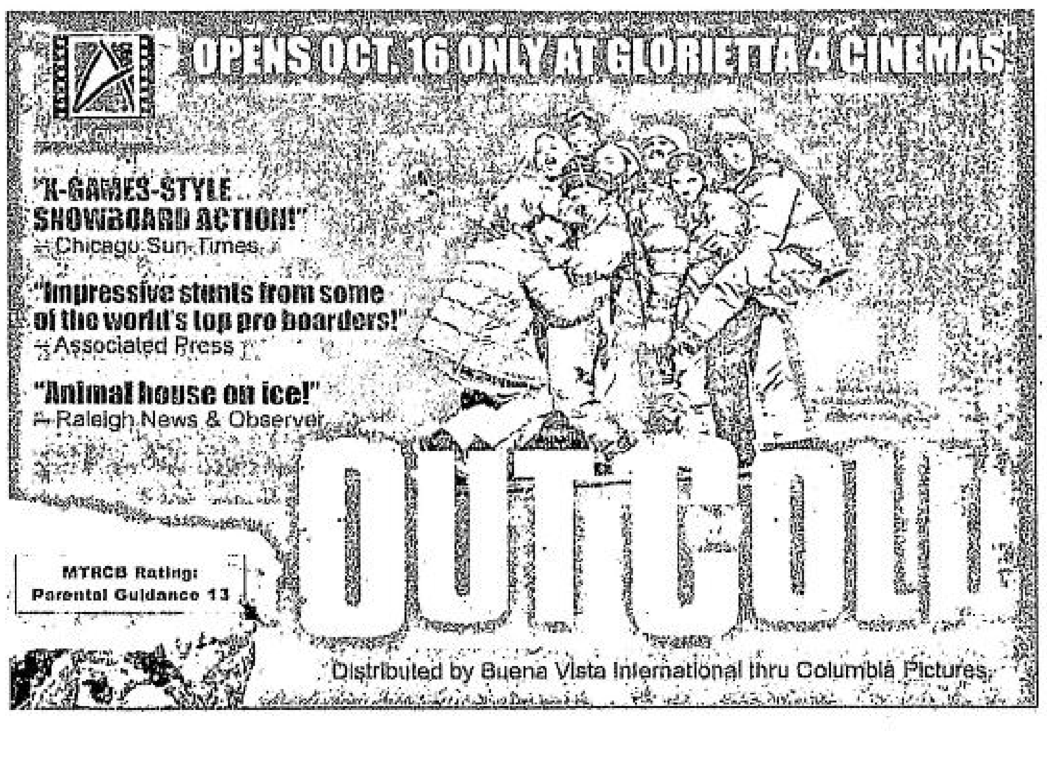

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD
PRESS & GALA SCREENING
TO UNDERSTAND THE ORIGIN OF EVIL YOU MUST GO BACK TO THE BEGINNING.
RED DRAGON
THE FIRST AND MOST TERRIFYING CHAPTER IN THE HANNIBAL LECTER TRILOGY
RED DRAGON
OCTOBER 14, 2002 -
Monday, 7:30 p.m.
@ Robinsons Movieworld Galleria
Cinema 6.
This united international pictures Premiere is STRICTLY invitational.
REGULAR SCREENING IS ON OCTOBER 23, 2002
Robinsons Movieworld Prepaid MovieCards available at all Robinsons Cinema branches.


SEE IT FIRST!
SM CINEMA
ADVANCE SCREENING
INVITATIONAL DWLL SCREENING
on October 14, 2002 • 7:30 pm
SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 1
MTRCB RATING: R18
Regular showing on October 23 at the SM CINEMAS.
Simultaneously shown at
SM Pampanga • Cebu • Davao
TO UNDERSTAND THE ORIGIN OF EVIL YOU MUST GO BACK TO THE BEGINNING
RED DRAGON
THE FIRST AND MOST TERRIFYING CHAPTER IN THE HANNIBAL LECTER TRILOGY

AYALA CINEMAS
"TWO THUMBS UP!"
— Ebert & Roeper
"COLIN FIRTH IS A DELIGHT & REESE WITHERSPOON ADDS SPARKLE!"
— Rollingstone
THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST
RUPERT EVERETT COLIN FIRTH FRANCIS O'CONNOR REESE WITHERSPOON JUDI DENCH
Directed by Oliver Parker
Based on a play by Oscar Wilde
ArtFilm
THE COFFEE CLUB
OPENS OCTOBER 16
Only at ARTFILM GREENBELT 1
Two young gentlemen (Rupert Everett & Colin Firth) living in 1890s England use the same pseudonym ("Earnest") on the sly, which is fine until they both fall in love with women using that name, which leads to a comedy of mistaken identities...
MTRCB Rating: General Patronage (G)
NOKIA SKYFILMS INQUIRER


OPENS OCT. 16 ONLY AT GLORIETTA 4 CINEMAS
"X-GAMES-STYLE SNOWBOARD ACTION!"
— Chicago Sun-Times
"Impressive stunts from some of the world's top pro boarders!"
— Associated Press
"Animal house on ice!"
— Raleigh News & Observer
OUT COLD
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

Henry Omaga Diaz survives terror …

From page A37

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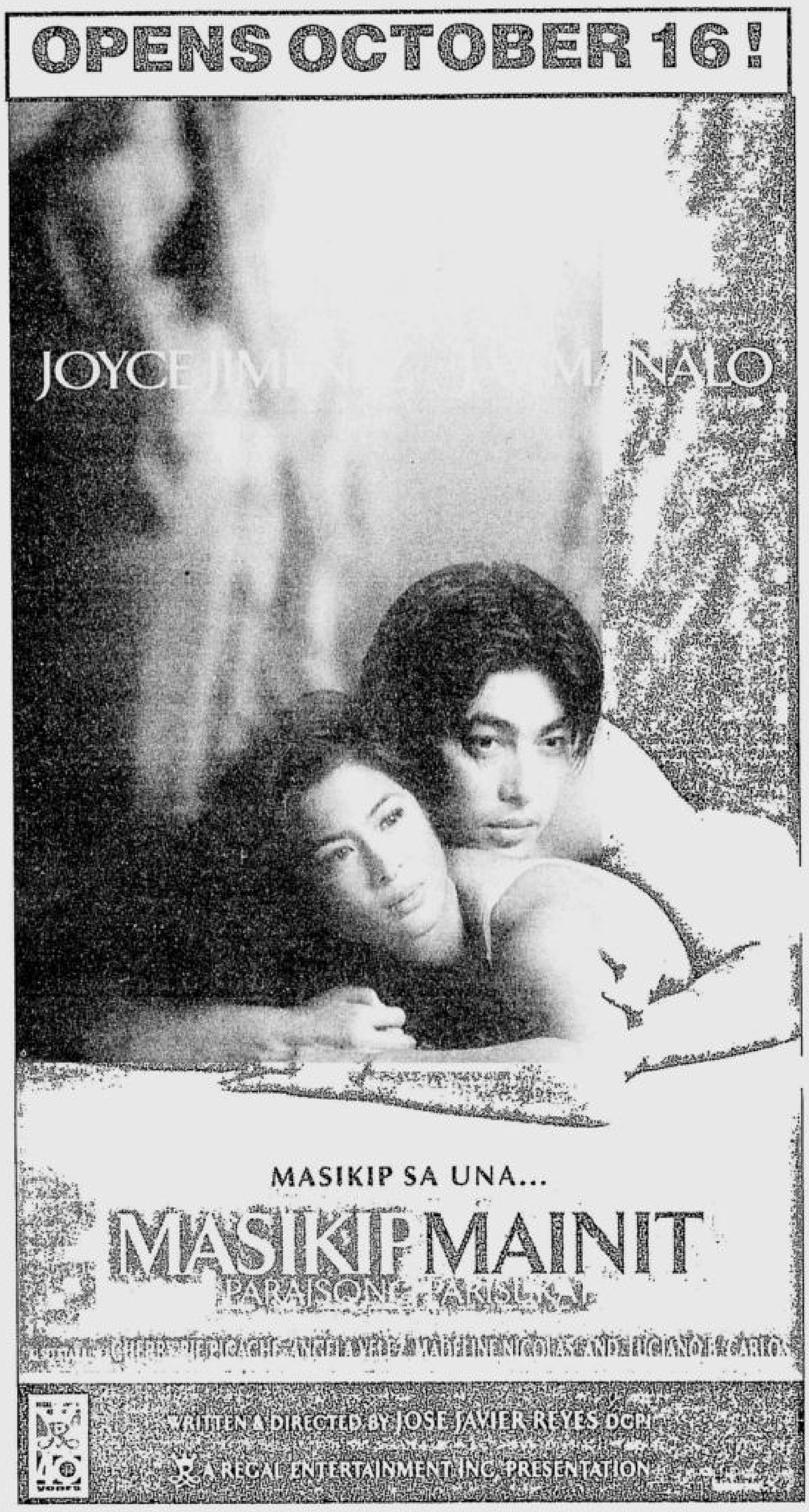
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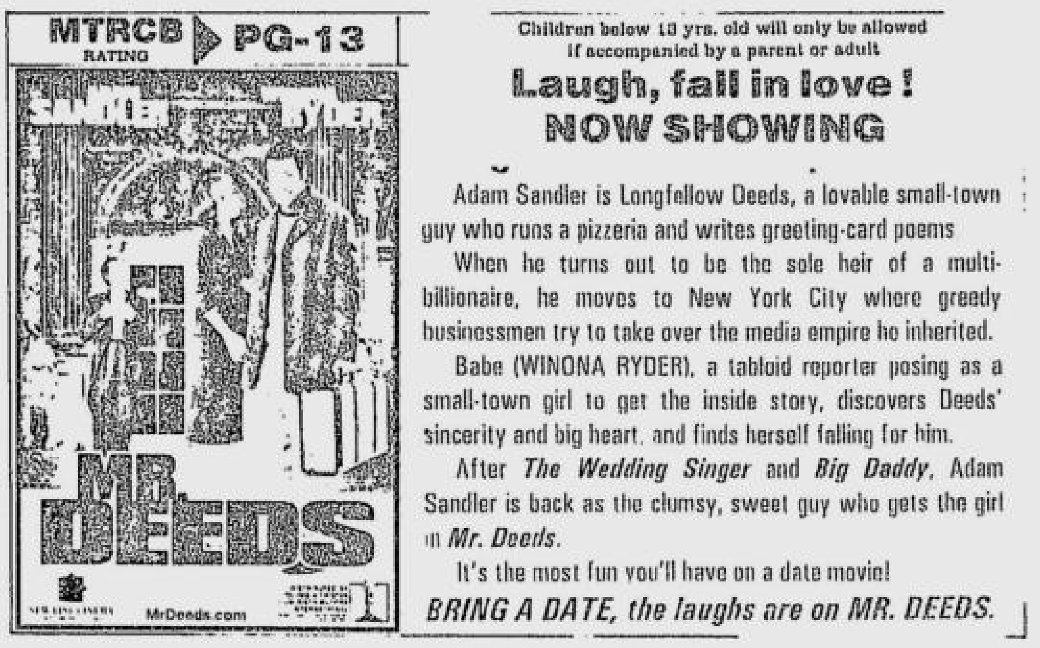
MASIKIP SA UNA…
MASIKIP MAINIT

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY JOSE JAVIER REYES DGPI
A REGAL ENTERTAINMENT INC. PRESENTATION


MTRCB RATING PG-13

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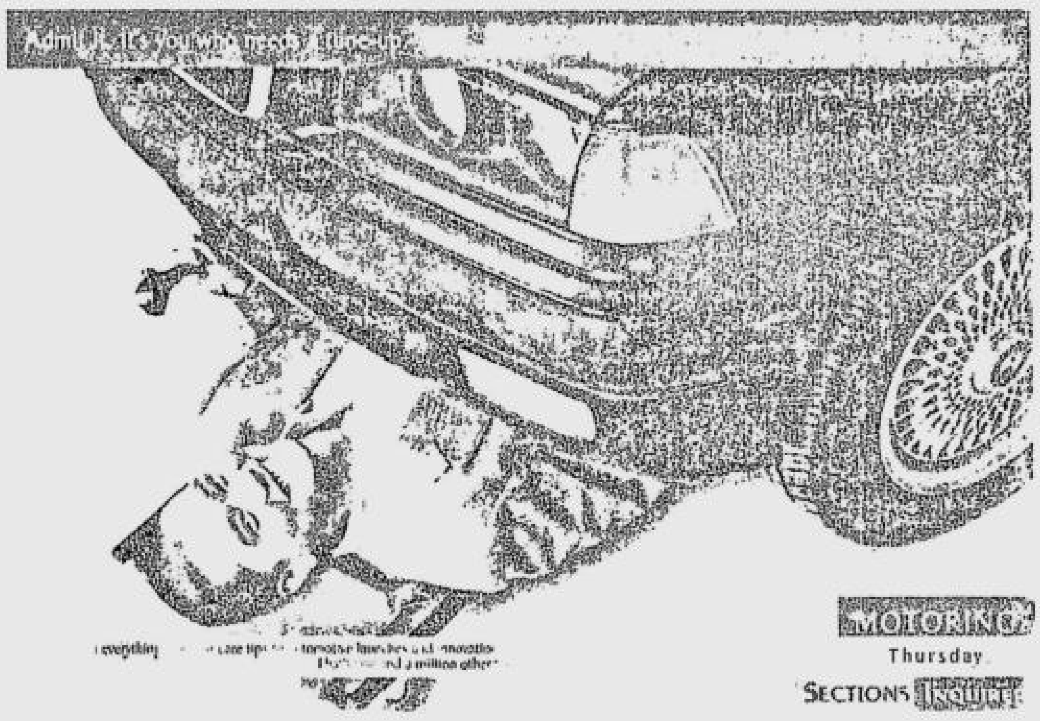
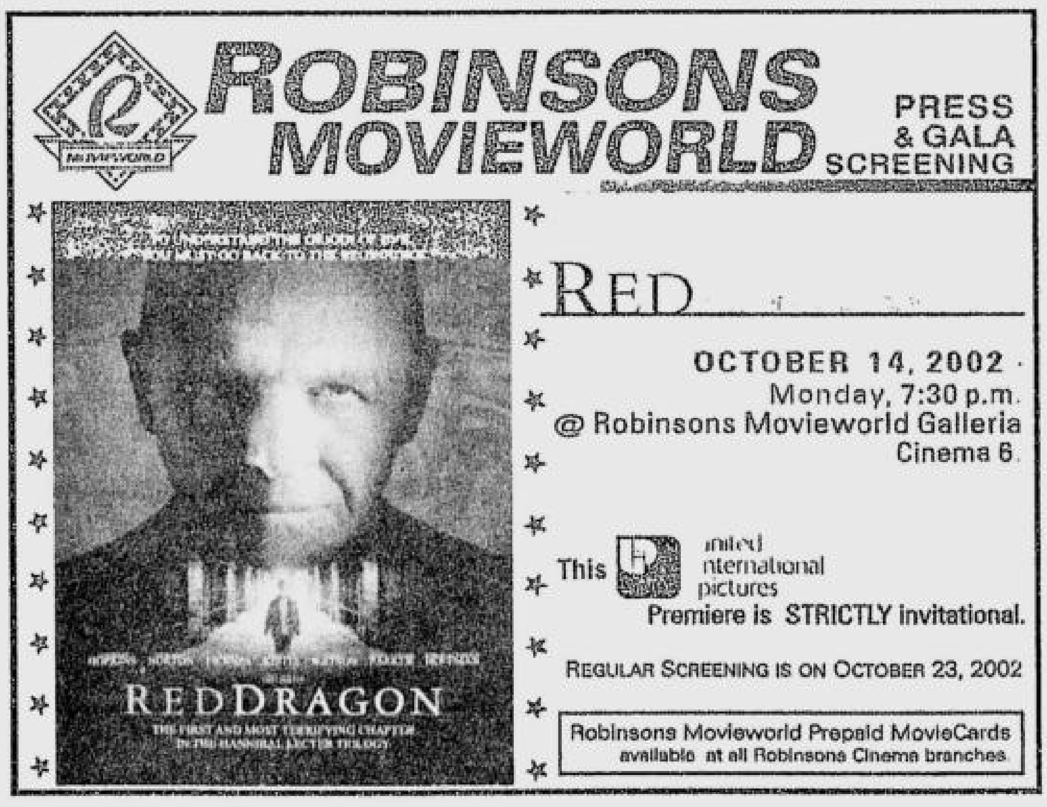


PG-13
NOW SHOWING
ASIA'S BIGGEST BOX-OFFICE SENSATION TODAY!
OUTGROSSING HOLLYWOOD BLOCKBUSTERS EVERYWHERE!
MICHELLE YEOH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PRESS & GALA SCREENING

RED
OCTOBER 14, 2002
Monday, 7:30 p.m.
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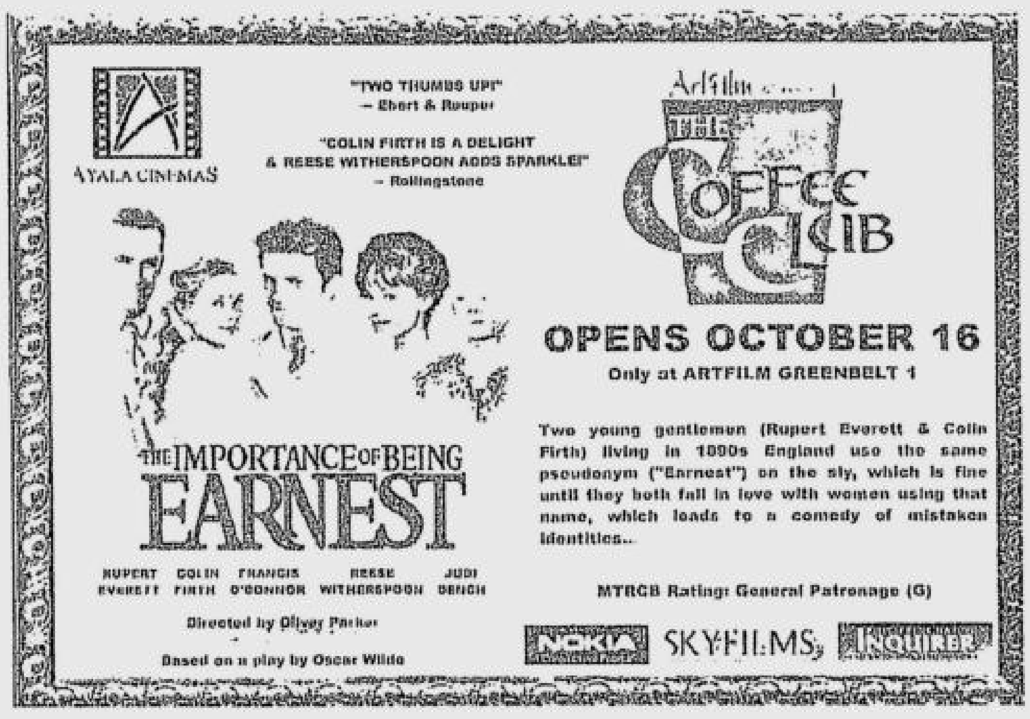
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OPENS OCTOBER 16
Only at ARTFILM GREENBELT 1
Two young gentlemen (Rupert Everett & Colin Firth) living in 1890s England use the same pseudonym ("Earnest") on the sly, which is fine until they both fall in love with women using that name, which leads to a comedy of mistaken identities..
MTRCB Rating: General Patronage (G)
NOKIA SKYFILMS INQUIRER

OPENS OCT. 16 ONLY AT GLORIETTA 4 CINEMAS
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

'Star for a Night' expands its talent base

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WE never thought we'd see the day, but wonder of wonder and hallelujah, the "Star for a Night" talent search has recently been fielding contestants who are older than the show's regulation adolescents and teenagers.

Ever since the show started telecasting, we've wondered in print why the talent search seems to be concentrating on bagets contestants, most of whom are female.

We pointed out that singers in their 20s and 30s can also be exceptional, and that their relative maturity could add texture and insight to their musical performances. And that males can be outstanding singers, too, so why the seeming bias against them:

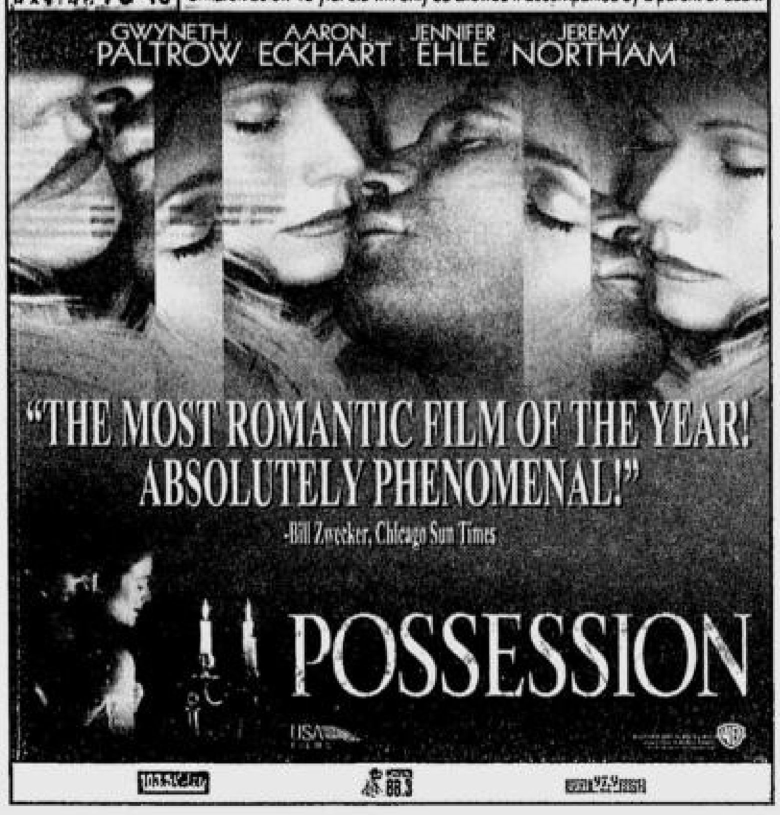
After months of this desultory status quo, we concluded that the show could be focusing on discovering adolescent and teen female singers because its sister recording company felt that they were the easiest to develop into singing and recording stars.

We got so bored with the show's biases and other predictable elements that we stopped viewing it for a time. Later, however, we

STAR/ A39

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SPORT / WALK TO REMEMBER
ODEON	THE TOUCH
ODEON-2	KARTA ALAS / NAKED NIGHTS
ROBEN	LOLLIPOP
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SCOOBY DOO / STUART LITTLE 2
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	LILLIPOP
REMAR	HUBAD NA MULTO
REMAR-2	LILLIPOP
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BESTMAN
B	HUBAD NA MULTO
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	INT HE MOOD FOR LOVE
CINEMA-2	BIRTHDAY GIRL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	PROSTI
CINEMA-2	LOLLIPOP
CINEMA-3	SPY KIDS 2
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOUCH
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	ENOUGH
CINEMA-6	BESTMAN
CINEMA-7	BIRTHDAY GIRL
CINEMA-8	HUBAD NA MULTO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TUXEDO
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLOODWORK
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	MR. DEEDS
CINEMA-12	FRAILITY
CINEMA-14	0
CINEMA-15	BESTMAN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	BESTMAN
CINEMA 2	ENOUGH
CINEMA 3	PROSTI
CINEMA 4	ROAD TO PERDITION
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA



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First Pacific stake in PLDT up for grabs

INDICATORS

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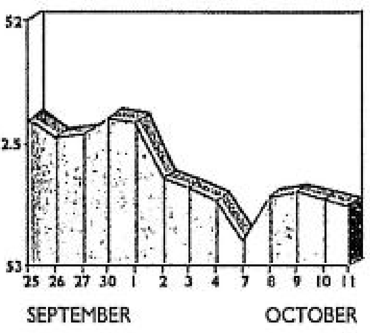

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Trading to remain slow

THE LOCAL stock market is expected to remain in the doldrums this week amid jitters arising from the tension in the Middle East.

The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index has been going down in the last four weeks. It is now trading at its 11-month lows due to pressure on the peso and crude oil supply triggered by threats of a military strike on Iraq.

The index closed at 1,072.19 on Friday or 2.67 percent lower than the week-ago level.

SB Equities manager for institutional sales Monique Licaros said the market's major support of 1,080 was breached last week due to strings of negative news.

"The next support is at 980. I'm not saying that it will go down to that level but that's the next support," Licaros said. She added that investor sentiment would continue to be weak due to external tensions.

Last week, the US gave Iraq the ultimatum to disarm or face a US-led strike, after President Bush obtained the US Congress' approval for the use of military force.

TRADING/ B6

By Doris C. Dumlao

FIRST Pacific Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong is offering its 24.47-percent stake in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. to interested groups and is now willing to settle for a price lower than that offered by the Gokongwei group in their aborted joint venture deal, INQUIRER sources said.

The sources said that the Salim group, which controls First Pacific, had indicated to various local and foreign groups that it was willing to sell its PLDT shares at a minimum price of $12 (P624) per share or much lower than the $21 (about P1,100) per share offered by the Gokongwei group. The amount, however, still represents a premium over the $4.95 (P257.5) per share closing price of the phone firm at the Philippine Stock Exchange last Friday.

The new strategy being considered by the Salim group calls for an outright sale of its PLDT holdings, equivalent to 41 million out of PLDT's 169 million outstanding common shares. The Salim group's stake represents the single biggest block in the phone company with an effective voting interest of 31.59 percent, the sources said.

Under the aborted Gokongwei deal, First Pacific was supposed to control one-third of the venture that would own the 24.47-percent stake in PLDT and a 50.4-percent interest in property developer Bonifacio Land Co.

The deal would have generated for the Salims $616 million, payable on a staggered basis.

With the withdrawal of the Gokongweis from the deal, sources said interested groups were haggling for a much lower price. Some groups had offered to pay only $5-$6 per share of PLDT and the best offer so far, which came from a foreign group, was $8.30 per share, but these offers were turned down by the Salims, the sources noted.

PLDT president Manuel V. Pangilinan and chair Antonio "Tonyboy" O.

FIRST/ B3

Mobile telephone firms: The Untouchables

By Abigail L. Ho

(First of three parts)

THERE are more than 12 million of them all over the country, with enough political power to oust a president.

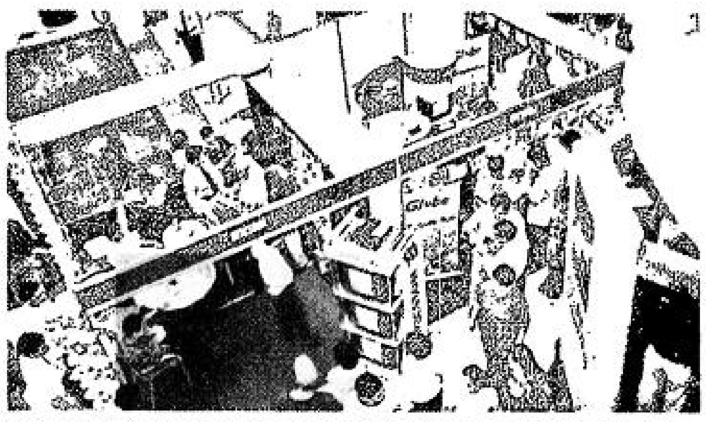
Ironically, while they can act collectively to overthrow a corrupt and despotic regime, the country's mobile phone users are powerless to defend their own rights as consumers.

B-One

In a country as cellular phone-savvy as the Philippines, consumers find it unfortunate that even the government cannot stand up to giant telecommunications firms.

The National Telecommunications Commission, an agency mandated to ensure that competition in the industry is maintained while watching over the welfare of consumers, seems to lack both the guts and teeth to protect millions

MOBILE/ B4



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Credit card loans up 7.8%

By Clarissa S. Batino

CREDIT card receivables of banks and other financial companies grew by 7.77 percent or P3.66 billion in the second quarter to P50.76 billion, from P47.1 billion in the first quarter.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said that of the total, 22.2 percent were now considered past due representing an increase from the first-quarter level of 22.1 percent.

The BSP official said the growth in credit card receivables signaled a growing consumer spending which should be good for the economy.

Reyes said the central bank was still validating the claim of the Credit Card Association of the Philippines that credit card accounts become past due 31 days after due date.

"We will be able to re-compute the past due accounts within the next two months. In the meantime, we are still checking whether this is indeed the global practice as claimed by the association."

The credit card association, in a meeting with BSP officials last month, sought a review of the past due computation of the BSP, claiming that in other countries, credit card loans become past due if they remained unpaid 31 days after due date.

The group believed that revising the computation and taking out loans unpaid from the first day after due date to the 30th day would bring down the industry's past due level to less than 10 percent from the current level.

Reyes said that of the total, P48.74 billion were credit card receivables of commercial banks. This was up by 7.35 percent or P3.34 billion from the first quarter's P45.4 billion.

While the thrift banks accounted for only P2.02 billion of the total as of the second quarter, their receivables rose by 18.82 percent or P320 million from the previous quarter.

Currently, 17 big banks and 11 thrift banks are engaged in the credit card business, mostly through tie-ups with credit card giants such as Mastercard, Visa and Diners'.

Reyes believed that the credit card companies have started to tighten their screening and evaluation process, and this helped capped the past due accounts at the 22-percent level.

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Insurance and money laundering

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

THE INSURANCE Commission recently issued an operating manual designed to prevent the use of insurance contracts in money laundering.

Money laundering covers all procedures to change, obscure or conceal the beneficial ownership or audit trail of illegally obtained money or valuables so that it will appear to have originated from a legitimate source. There are three stages of money laundering.

First, the physical disposal of cash proceeds derived from illegal activity. The aim is to remove the cash from where it was acquired to avoid detection. This is called placement.

Second, separating illicit proceeds from their source by creating complex layers of financial transaction designed to disguise the source of money, subvert the audit trail and provide anonymity. The purpose is to dissociate the illicit proceeds from the unlawful activity by creating intentionally a complex web of financial transactions aimed at concealing any audit trail as well as the source and ownership of funds. This is called layering.

The final third stage is integration, which is the process by which the money is integrated into the legitimate economic and financial systems and is assimilated with all the other assets of the system. Integration of laundered money into the economy is accomplished by making it appear to have been legally earned. The laundered money is exceedingly difficult to distinguish from legal wealth.

There are some insurance transactions that can be used to launder money. The most common is the single premium life insurance policy. Instead of paying premiums every year for 20 years on an endowment policy, it is possible to pay one huge single premium at the beginning of the policy. This was quite rare before. But today, to a returning overseas Filipino worker, awash with cash after finishing his contract abroad, a single premium policy can be quite attractive considering the discount. The money launderer can buy a single premium life insurance policy, then later on surrender the policy for its cash value. The laundry cycle is complete.

Or, the launderer can accelerate the premium payments on an existing life insurance policy, then withdraw the cash value soon after. This is about the easiest way of laundering money through a life insurance policy. But the launderer will have to find a policyholder willing to be his accomplice.

Another example is that of a five-year fire insurance policy where the five-year premium, properly discounted, is paid up front. After a year, the policy is canceled and a refund of the premium from the balance of the five-year period is disbursed. This refund is fully laundered money.

An expensive car is bought with dirty money, is insured to full value, and is wrecked totally or stolen. The proceeds of the claim are laundered money.

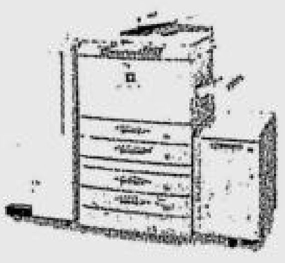
But, it is not easy to use insurance policies, life or non-life, to launder money. In life insurance, a warm body has to fill up an application, go through a medical exam, and if the policy is big enough, pass a character check. In a non-life insurance policy, there has to be a building or a car to be insured.

Insurance companies are creatures of habit. A transaction that is outside of the normal course of business, such as a single premium life insurance policy, or even a walk-in customer, will instantly trigger the company's defense mechanism. The early warning system sounds off and everybody in the company will be asking all sorts of questions.

Even if the company or agent is in cahoots with the money launderer, the washing cycle will be difficult to pull off. It is possible for a general agent in the province to issue a five-year fire policy on a fictitious building and then refund the premium after it is canceled. But the audit trail should be easy to trace.

This is not to say that some enterprising and highly imaginative characters will not try to go into the laundry business by using insurance policies as their detergent.

A SHARP CHANGE HAS JUST BEGUN.



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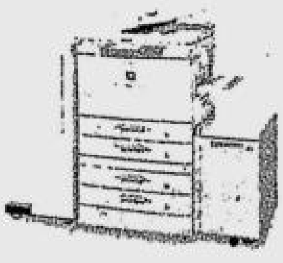

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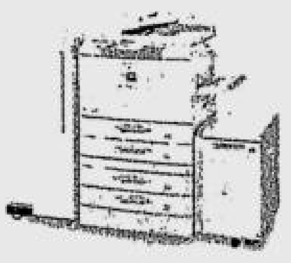

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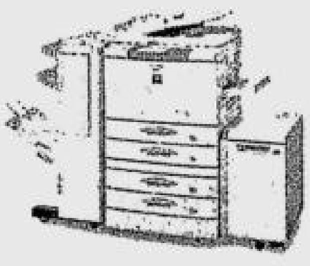

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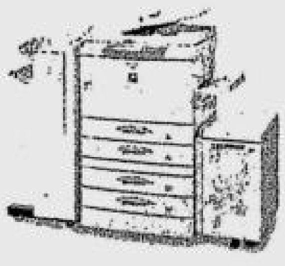

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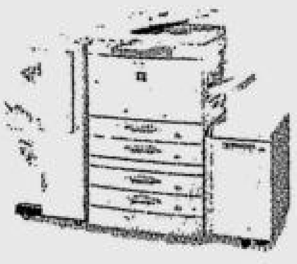

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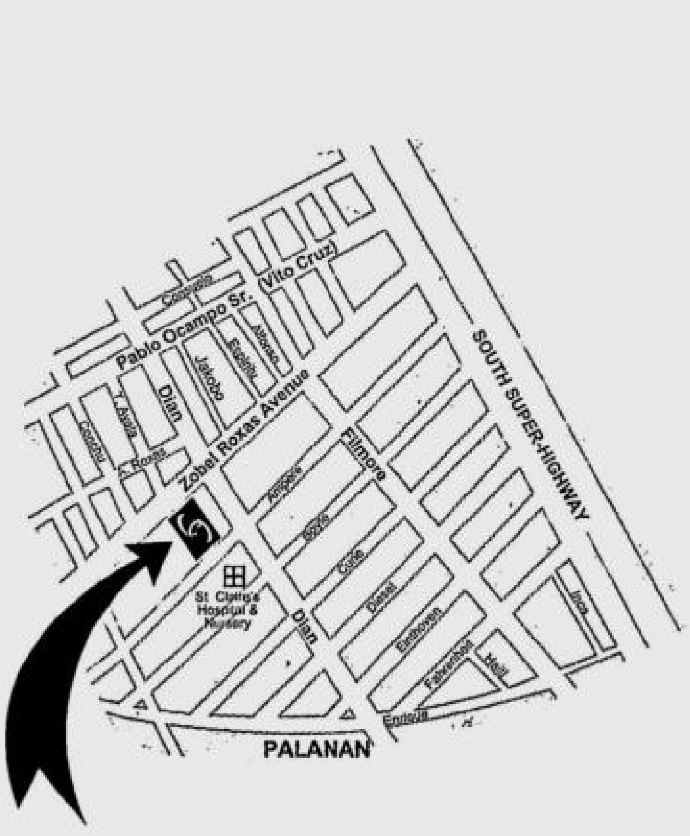

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First Pacific stake in PLDT up for grabs

From page B1

Cojuangco were reportedly forming separate groups to bid for First Pacific's stake in PLDT. The Gokongweis, although already out of the deal with the Hong Kong-based firm, were said to be still keen on PLDT. *(See related story on Page B5.)*

However, PLDT said in an earlier disclosure that Pangilinan was not personally involved in moves to make new offers to buy the First Pacific stake amid reports that he had tied up with Newbridge Capital to make a counter offer.

Sources from the Cojuangco camp said the PLDT chair was keen on teaming up with big financial backers, such as his uncle Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco who is chair of food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp., to bid for the PLDT stake.

The Pangilinan-Cojuangco alliance, which was successful in blocking the Gokongwei deal, reportedly broke up due to a number of "fundamental differences."

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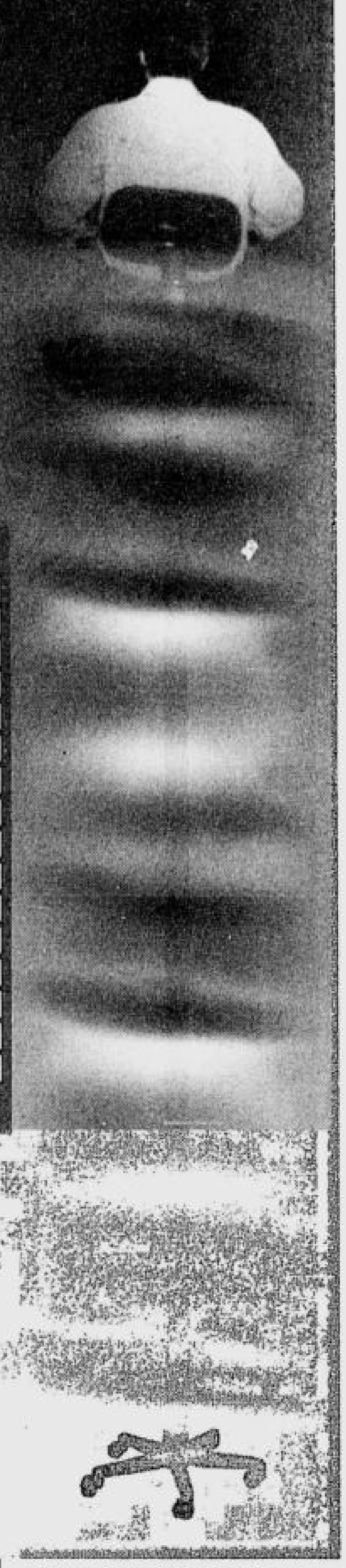

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Bancassurance rules make sense, says BSP chief

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE POLICY-MAKING Monetary Board will not ease its policies on letting banks sell insurance products using their branches, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura has declared.

Reacting to comments made by American Insurance Group chair Maurice Greenberg, Buenaventura said the government's policies on "bancassurance" made sense.

"The law is the law. We can't waive it for anybody," Buenaventura stressed.

Greenberg said last week the central bank's plan to require banks to own at least 5 percent of an insurance company before they could use their branches to sell insurance products did not make sense.

"Bancassurance" is a French term referring to the selling of insurance through a bank's established distribution channels. The result is a bank that can offer banking, insurance, lending and investment products to a customer.

Greenberg, one of the 15 members of President Macapagal-Arroyo's "international board of advisers," was in Manila last week to attend a meeting with Ms Macapagal and some of her Cabinet men.

Buenaventura said the Monetary Board was still firming up a circular that would allow commercial banks with at least 5-percent equity in an insurance firm to sell insurance products using their branches.

The General Banking Act of 2000 allows banks to engage in non-allied undertakings down to their affiliates.

Buenaventura insisted that the Monetary Board had already substantially relaxed the definition of an "affiliate" to the minimum requirement of the law.

"As it is, we are already bending over backwards to accommodate bancassurance because we feel it is good for the local capital markets. But we cannot sacrifice the prudential standards we must maintain," he said.

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Mobile telephone firms: The Untouchables

From page B1

of cell phone-wielding Filipinos.

With the deregulation of the telecommunications industry in 1995—when the monopoly once enjoyed by dominant carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. went down the drain—new players started gaining enough power to push around even some major government establishments and officials.

In a span of three years, the mobile phone industry grew by leaps and bounds, giving current cellular giants Smart Communications Inc. and Globe Telecom Inc. truckloads of cash, as well as superhuman powers.

No one to turn to

As these cellular companies grew, consumers somehow found themselves weaker.

While these service providers started introducing more innovative services to woo potential subscribers into joining the cellular bandwagon, existing users found themselves more confused with all the unsolicited text messages they were receiving, their suddenly vanishing call and text credits, and countless other problems.

"But the service providers themselves don't do anything about it. Actually, we don't trust them to do anything because they're cashing in on our confusion, and the government is not doing anything about it either when it should be the one protecting the consumers," Jonathan Domingo, president of consumer advocacy group Philippine League for Democratic Telecommunications Inc. (PLDTi) said.

He cited the case of the controversial reduction of free text message allocations that Smart, Globe and their affiliates, Pilipino Telephone Corp. and Isla Communications Co. Inc., announced last year.

The NTC practically washed its hands, saying text messaging was a deregulated service that it had no control over.

"Every time there is a consumer concern, the NTC tends to wash its hands of it. They tell us that consumers don't need the NTC to voice out their concerns, as we can always do it ourselves," Domingo said.

NTC common carriers authorization department head Edgardo Cabarios admitted that the NTC had a lot of trouble trying to strike a balance between making the industry attractive enough to investors and protecting the rights of consumers.

He said the commission could only enforce the law primarily based on Republic Act 7925, or the Public Telecommunications Policy Act of the Philippines. Unfortunately, his particular law had no penal provisions to speak of.

"While consumer rights are in the law, RA 7925 doesn't give us a big enough whipping paddle to punish erring telecommunications firms with. What we're given are two choices that are both in the extreme," he said.

For firms violating any kind of consumer right, the NTC can either order them to stop their operations or ask them to pay a P200-per-day fine.

Consumers on the losing end

Whatever way the NTC chooses to go, Cabarios said, consumers will always end up the losers.

"Imposing a P200-per-day fine on violators will hardly keep them from committing the offense again, while ordering them to stop operations even for just a day will inconvenience millions of cellular phone subscribers. So there's really no way for us to actually protect consumers, unless RA 7925 can be amended," he said.

He suggested that penal provisions that would actually work be added to the law, as existing sanctions were either too light or too harsh.

There should be a "middle ground," he said, that would be enough to discourage erring telecommunications firms from abusing their subscribers while still preventing inconvenience on the part of consumers.

"Increasing the fine would be a good way to achieve that middle ground. RA 7925 has good provisions but it doesn't give the NTC too many options. Right now, we always have to stay neutral and all we can do is conduct dialogs between the complainant and the carrier. If they can't reach an agreement, we forward their case to our legal department," he said.

But cases at the NTC usually take years to be resolved, if at all. Again, Cabarios blamed it on the weak position the law gave the NTC.

Despite these, there has so far been no move to explore the possibility of amending RA 7925 to give consumers a louder voice.

Ganging up on consumers

Unwittingly, the NTC becomes a "partner in crime" of the country's telecommunications giants, in the eyes of the consumers.

Both Domingo and TXTPower spokesperson Anthony Ian Cruz again brought up last year's text reduction case where they believed the NTC colluded with Globe, Islacom, Smart and Piltel.

"Reducing the number of free text messages was the carriers' way to rake in more profits from the service. Yet the NTC kept on saying that they can't do anything about it. They were supposed to side with consumers yet they did nothing to help us," Cruz said.

Simply put, he said the government was supposed to create a "pro-Filipino telecommunications industry," but it was opting to side with the carriers.

Because of this, telecommunications firms are getting more and more brazen—so much so that consumers are the ones suffering in the process. *(To be continued)*

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RP still in FATF blacklist

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINES again missed the chance to be removed from the Financial Action Task Force list of countries that were perceived uncooperative in a global fight against money laundering and would likely stay in the list until Congress amends the country's anti-money laundering law to accommodate the group's recommendations.

In its three-day meeting in Paris recently, FATF removed three countries from the blacklist including Russia and Dominica, but retained 12, including the Philippines.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said that for the country to be removed from the blacklist, Congress must set tougher rules and amend the one-year-old Anti Money Laundering Act.

"They are waiting for us to address the deficiencies that they had told us," said the BSP governor.

The FATF, in its meeting in June, sought the relaxation of the country's strict 46-year-old law on bank secrecy.

The group, in its official communication with Buenaventura in June, also sought a reduction in the threshold amount used in determining whether a transaction is considered suspicious and should therefore be reported to the Anti-Money Laundering Council to only P500,000 from the present level of P4 million.

Buenaventura said the international watchdog against dirty money had told him that these two amendments must be made before the country could be removed from the list.

"The amendments sought by the FATF were already proposed to Congress. It will now depend on how the amendments take shape," said Buenaventura.

While the FATF, consisting of members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, said it would suspend imposition of any economic sanctions against the Philippines but added that further delay in the amendments might prompt the group to take action again against the country.

Government officials had started lobbying for the United States' support for the country's removal from the money-laundering blacklist next year.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said he had asked US Secretary of Treasury Paul O'Neill, in a recent Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting, for support in pushing for the Philippines' removal from the FATF list.

"The revival of the sanctions against us would make our international transactions very difficult as any money coming to and from the Philippines would be subjected to scrutiny," said Camacho.

Buenaventura, according to the finance chief, had already warned Congress that even the dollar remittance of the country's overseas Filipino workers would be affected by an FATF sanction.

Gokongwei still keen on PLDT

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TAIPAN John Gokongwei might have walked out of his deal with First Pacific Co. Ltd. for a takeover of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Fort Bonifacio Global City, but the shrewd businessman has left the door ajar for a possible comeback.

A top official of Gokongwei's JG Summit Holdings Inc., who refused to be identified, said the group has not yet totally abandoned its interest in PLDT despite withdrawing its buy-out offer to First Pacific on Oct. 2, or 2 days after the exclusivity period given to the taipan expired due to the stubborn resistance from the PLDT president Manuel V. Pangilinan and chair Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco.

The market is rife with speculation that Gokongwei remained keen on PLDT despite this setback especially now that he could swoop up shares of the country's largest telecommunication concern at a bargain.

PLDT shares closed P257.50 Friday, down 77 percent from P455 when the deal was announced in June. Gokongwei's offer of $616.6 million for the First Pacific's stake in PLDT to be paid over three years pegged PLDT's value at P980 per share. First Pacific paid roughly P1,400 for the PLDT shares in 1998. First Pacific's stake in Fort Bonifacio, which Gokongwei has offered to buy at a discount, was included in the deal mainly as a sweetener.

The official said it was still possible for the group to return to the negotiating table with the Salim family of First Pacific if conditions become more conducive to making a deal. Gokongwei's withdrawal, however, has not stopped First Pacific from continuing to peddle its PLDT and Fort Bonifacio interests.

He stressed that the group has never said never to any deal because circumstances and the players do change. The source, however, refused to comment on what would spur the group to revisit the deal.

In its withdrawal letter, Gokongwei son-in-law and corporate legal counsel Perry Pe cited the difficulties faced by First Pacific in performing and satisfying the terms and conditions of the memorandum of agreement signed between two parties on June 4; and implementing and completing the transaction within the agreed time frame.

Pe took note of the open resistance of the current management of both PLDT and Metro Pacific Corp., both headed by Pangilinan, based on the legal obstacles they laid down to hamper the mandatory due diligence audit of the companies to be acquired.

SEC OKs Victorias' capital increase

BACOLOD CITY—The Securities and Exchange Commission has approved the increase of capital of Victorias Milling Co. Inc., which forms part of the sugar milling company's rehabilitation plan.

VMC's new capitalization was placed at P2.56 billion with a new par value of P1 per share, VMC said in a statement yesterday.

On Oct. 2, the SEC approved the conversion of P1.1 billion worth of VMC debts into equity, it said.

As a result, the company's 30 creditor banks and financial institutions now collectively own 69.5 percent of the VMC.

VMC chief operating officer Arthur Aguilar said this would further enhance the successful rehabilitation of the sugar firm's milling and refining operations.

Aguilar announced that the creditor banks were now formalizing their acquisition of the VMC shares.

In the next two weeks, a notice for a special stockholders' meeting will be sent to all stockholders, the press release added.

Aguilar said the special stockholders' meeting would be held to elect a new set of VMC board of directors. The creditor banks are entitled to seven of the 11 seats in the new board.

The election of the new board of directors will signal the start of the final implementation of the 15-year rehabilitation plan for VMC. He also said the new board would perform the functions of the VMC management committee, which was appointed by the SEC to oversee the company's rehabilitation.

In the meantime, VMC earlier reported that it had completed its workforce reduction program which formed part of its rehabilitation program.

The VMC's rehabilitation program called for the reduction of its manpower from 2,446 to 1,641, it added.

Aguilar told the INQUIRER that the total retrenchment required under the rehabilitation plan cost VMC about P250 million from internally sourced funds. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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This year's meet adopts the theme "Rethinking the 21st Century Corporation : Balancing Turbulence, Power and Responsibility."

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For further information, call Foundation for the Support of the United Nations at 812-77-33.

Language of business

THE ASIAN Institute of Management's Jose B. Fernandez Center for Banking and Finance is holding its 4th Language of Business Seminar on Nov. 4 to 8 and Nov. 11 to 15, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., catering primarily to the country's media practitioners.

The project was launched in 1999 in response to the need to provide print and broadcast journalists not only with access to credible sources of information on business and economic affairs, but to also provide them with the analytical skills that would deepen their understanding of the technical underpinnings of corporate and national economies and finance.

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SEIPI's CEO forum

THE SEMICONDUCTOR and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Inc. (Seipi), the largest organization of foreign and Filipino electronics companies in the country, is holding its 4th CEO Forum with the theme "Building a Value Roadmap for Technology and Business" on Oct. 22, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Rizal Ballroom of the Shangrila Hotel, Makati City.

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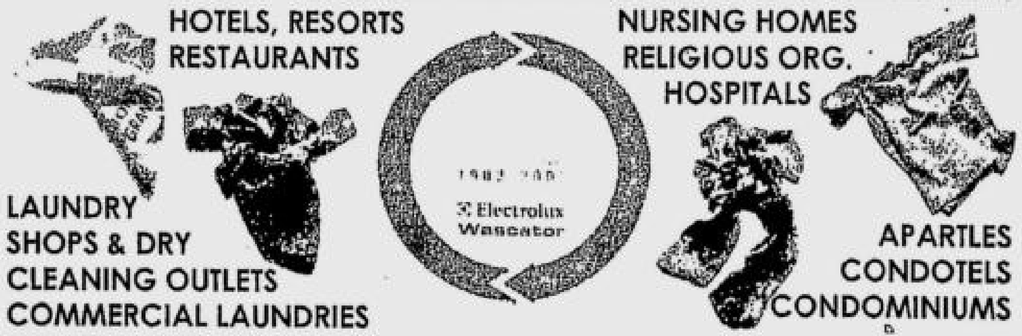

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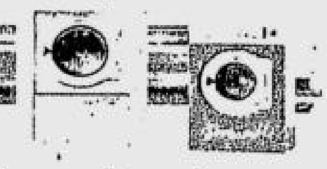

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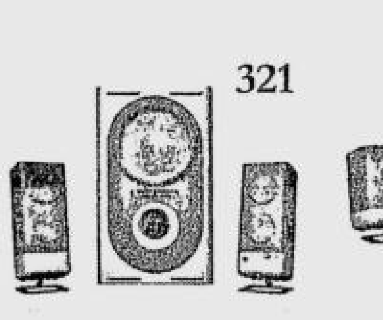
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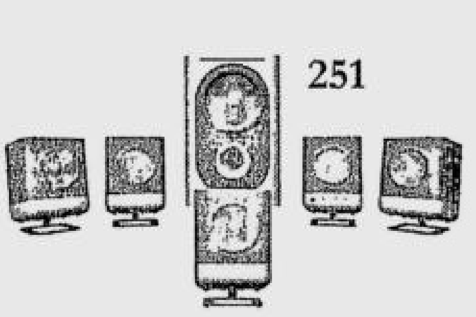
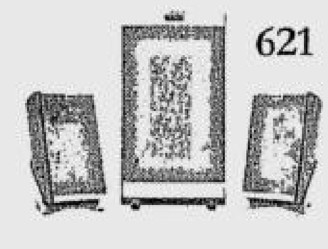
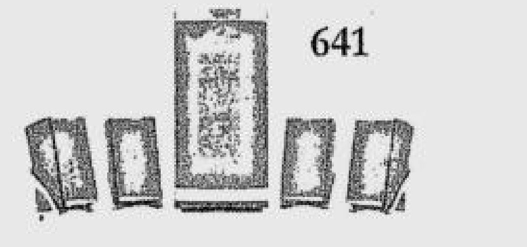
P 682.50/mo. for 6 mos.
SRP P 4,095


251

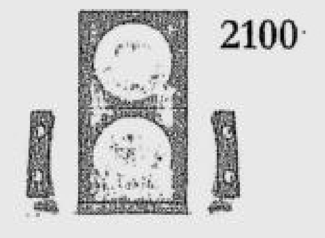
P 932.50/mo. for 6 mos.
SRP P 5,595


621

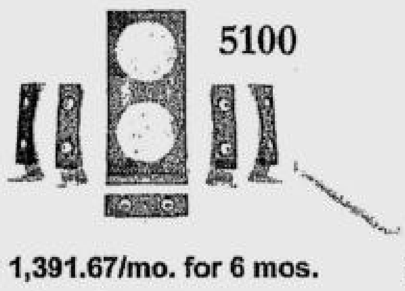
P 1,058.34/mo. for 6 mos.
SRP P 6,350


641

P 2,465.84/mo. for 6 mos.
SRP P 14,795


2100

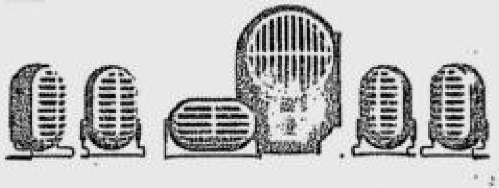
P 741.67/mo. for 6 mos.
SRP P 4,450


5100

P 1,391.67/mo. for 6 mos.
SRP P 8,350

XA3021

P 708.34/mo. for 6 mos.
SRP P 4,250


XA3051

P 1,499.17/mo. for 6 mos.
SRP P 8,995

Just listen to this!

Authorized Philippine Distributor:
Banbros Commercial, Inc.

Manila: (02) 727-3009 / 724-9998 / 718-2808 E-mail: bcl_sales@meridiantelekoms.net Cebu: (032) 416-8733 / 416-8737 / 233-2016 / 233-1518 E-mail: bcicebu@pacific.net.ph

SILICON VALLEY

Quezon City	371-5611
Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall	646-6536
SM Megamall	633-1724
SM Manila	525-3218
SM North	927-5831
SM Southmall	806-9595
Harrison Plaza	525-7731
Ayala Alabang	807-8987
Quad Park Square I	812-6734

VILLMAN COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC.

Ayala	892-2222
Pag-asa	929-0411
West Ave.	373-9872
Makati Sunvar	843-4371
Makati Paseo	815-1986
Katipunan	433-1224
Cubao	912-2785

COMPEX

Quezon City	711-0288	Galleria	632-7138
PC Office	632-7974	Sta. Lucia East	681-5471
Makati	892-8382-84	SM Manila	400-4677
Tutuban	253-1615	SM Fairview	417-6278
Alabang	850-3654-55	SM Megamall	633-1861-62
Ermita	528-4337	SM North Edsa	920-4610
Southmall	806-7606	SM Sucat	825-4467
Cyberzone Edsa	920-4607		

THE COMPUTER AUTHORITY

Edsa Shangri-La Plaza	637-4163
Sta. Lucia East	681-7334
Festival Mall Filinvest	850-3710
Virramall	721-0957
Quad Park Square I	810-5090
Tutuban	253-1444
SM Southmall	800-0512
SM Megamall	633-1594
SM Fairview	418-7151

ELECTROWORLD

SM City North Edsa	927-9535	SM Megamall	633-1624
New Farmers Plaza	911-1494	Abenson Shangri-La	638-8017
SM City Fairview	418-6064	Park Square	813-6154
Walter Mart Q.C.	415-0729	Walter Mart Mkt.	892-9119
SM Manila	524-8310	Quad Makati	894-0951
Binondo	242-5490	SM Southmall	800-0484
Harrison Plaza	521-8594	Abenson Alabang	850-9682
Sta. Lucia Grand Mall	681-5304	Alabang Town Center	772-3254

Stock markets to close at noon

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

YOU must go and see Eddie Murphy's latest movie. Instead of being a crazy cop, he is PLUTO NASH, owner of a restaurant on the moon. It is a fabulous place on which he has lavished millions of dollars but it is not a success. No atmosphere. In a vain attempt to recoup his losses, he invents a watch, which works only on the moon. It has a lunar tick. He makes a pass at the leading lady but she rejects him so he settles for a Plutonic relationship. He takes a steroid to build up his muscles, rubs his skin with Mercury, and finally prays to the god of homosexuals, Uranus. This is a dogmatic movie and if you book a seat by computer, make sure you get K9. Astronomical references occur purely by accident. I don't planet that way.

My daughter came home from school asking me the meaning of petiole. Now, I pride myself on having a phantasmagoric command of the English language but I had to concede defeat. At first, I thought it might be a kind of Italian dish like ravioli, or a form of pelota, but in the end I was forced to consult the dictionary. It turned out to be a branch of science, of which I have no knowledge, botany. It is, in fact, part of a branch so I will leaf it at that. Born in the center of London, and now living in Makati, I have had little exposure to nature. The only flower I know is self-raising flour, the only petals, bicycle petals; I know stamen because it is a bridge convention, and I am so sensitive to pollen, that I sneeze every time I hear Chopin's Polonaise. I even thought coup de grass was a lawn mower.

Limerick time

There was a young lady at sea
Who complained that it hurt her to pee.
Said the brawny old mate,
"That accounts for the state
Of the cook and the captain and me."

* * *

There was a young man named Racine
Who made a lovemaking machine.
Both concave and convex,
It would fit either sex,
With attachments for those in between.

* * *

Despite her impressive physique
Fatima was really quite meek;
If a mouse showed its head
She would jump into bed
Will a terrible blood-curdling sheik.

* * *

LAST Saturday, Ms Lilia Bautista, chair of the SEC wrote to the INQUIRER stating that the DOJ was taking action against Dante Ang and associates. Further investigation showed that some brokers were also being investigated so I am mollified. I wish she had also commented on tidying up the Stock Market by relegating all the illiquid stocks, which trade about twice a year, to a secondary board somewhere in a remote part of North Palawan, or on top of the Cordillera Mountains. Stocks being quoted at P0.002 make us a laughing stock.

Out of catastrophic world events comes some good news. The PSE has seen the light, listened to the majority opinion, and done away with the afternoon session. Starting on Tuesday, the stock market will open at 9 a.m. (30 minutes earlier) and close at noon. HOORAY! I will still be here till 3:30 p.m. because I have to collect and analyze the data in order to write the newsletter, but, at least, my losses at poker and blackjack will be reduced. And traders can leave at midday and sell memorial plots to their demented clients. Of course, it is possible that the PSE was alarmed by the fact that, after reading my article last week, 50 brokers were planning to fly to Fiji with the intention of setting up a parallel market.

President Macapagal is getting worried about Fernando Poe Jr. running in 2004. Voters, who live in the provinces and know little about politics, and care even less, are quite likely to vote for a popular movie star, just as they did with Erap. I have convinced her to let Assunta de Rossi also run. She knows as much about politics as FPJ, and for sure, all the men will vote for her. The women's vote will be split and Gloria's chance of being reelected will be greatly improved.

Stock markets worldwide have been dreadful. The Dow had 6 down- weeks, which took it to a 5-year low. The Nasdaq did even worse and sank to a 6-year low. Price of place goes to Japan, where the Nikkei has sunk to a 19-year low, with the Nikkei falling from 39,500 to 8,250. The Phisix has fallen about 70 percent from 3,440 to 1,066, after a low of 980, which we might re-test, now that Congress and the Senate have given President Bush the go ahead to attack Iraq, with or without permission from the UN.

I have been telling my subscribers to STAY LIQUID ever since I got them out of FPH with a handsome profit. I can see no merit in trying to outguess the market but, once war breaks out and markets collapse globally, I intend to follow the advice of Warren Buffett: "BUY WHEN THE BEARS ARE GIVING AWAY THE STOCK."

I am showing a chart of foreign activity. As can be seen, foreign brokers have been selling steadily since April and as they dominate our market, it is vital to know what they are doing. That is why I give this information, in great detail, in my daily newsletter. *Comments to mrbearbull@hotmail.com*

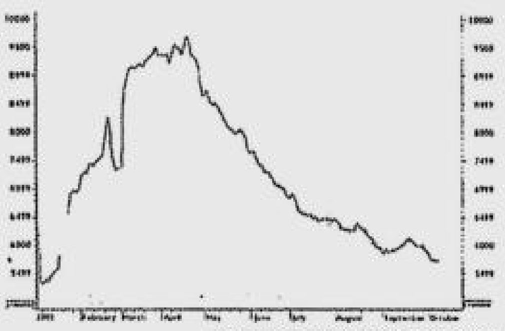


CHART COURTESY OF TSUPITERO.COM

Trading to remain slow

From page B1

"A lot of people are worried about what will possibly happen in the Middle East. It is driving up crude oil prices and resulting in a weaker peso," Licaros said.

"The further weakening of the peso will add pressure on everything else. Fewer people will buy property or borrow from banks because there will be pressure on interest rates," she said. But in times of uncertainty, Licaros said the safer haven would still be consumer-based stocks, including San Miguel Corp. She also noted that the market was still confident in retail tycoon Henry Sy's SM Prime Holdings Inc.

For this week, she said the market would still trade with caution and in thin volumes.

Jose Vistan, an analyst with AB Capital Securities, said a lot of investors were "sick of the market."

"Trading will remain lethargic, with investors dwelling mostly on the negatives. We don't expect to see much buyers floating around, even through the selling isn't going to be huge also," Vistan said.

Developments in Iraq will continue to dictate the market's performance, he stressed.

"For now, stocks are directionless but if war breaks out, we may head south again," Vistan said.

"Outside of Iraq, investors will most likely take cue from individual corporate stories in the coming sessions, particularly companies' third quarter results," he added, noting that it was not advisable to embark on any aggressive bargain-hunting at this time.

BPI Securities, in its weekly outlook, said barring any escalation or worsening of current events, investors might be able to discount bad news and focus on share prices.

"Bargain-hunting, however, is likely to remain tentative as investors weigh the attractiveness of current price levels against the possibility of further declines owing to external factors," BPI Securities said.

"We continue to advise caution. Although prices are at low enough levels to warrant accumulation, unresolved issues may hamper market appreciation," it noted.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, October 11, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	42,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.25	18.5	18.25	18.25	73,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42	42.5	42	42.5	103,500
China Banking Corp.	620	620	620	620	4,210
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	75,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	32.5	32.5	32	32.5	88,100
Philippine National Bank	28	28	28	28	6,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	18	18	18	18	35,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	5,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1020	1045	1020	1040	1,620
Sun Life Financial Serv.	825	825	820	820	3,590
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	20,100
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.35	0.39	0.35	0.38	3,440,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	435	435	430	430	4,340
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.028	0.028	0.026	0.026	11,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	6,500,000
Piltel	0.23	0.23	0.225	0.225	360,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	250	262.5	250	257.5	83,320
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	29,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	17.5	17.5	17	17	29,500
Manila Electric Co. B	26	26	25.5	25.5	380,800
Petron Corp.	1.46	1.5	1.46	1.5	106,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	350,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.36	2.36	2.36	2.36	120,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	12,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	30,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.48	0.5	0.48	0.5	220,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	512,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.75	176,400
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	32	32	32	32	20,000
RFM Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	30,000
San Miguel Corp. A	52.5	52.5	52.5	52.5	31,300
San Miguel Corp. B	56	57	56	57	85,000
Universal Robina Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	20,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	40,000
Ayala Corp.	5	5	5	5	634,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.32	2.32	2.32	2.32	20,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	11,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	100,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	40,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.225	0.225	0.22	0.225	1,650,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	3,000,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	6,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.75	132,700
House of Investments Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	10,000
Ionics Inc.	3	3	3	3	42,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	10,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	5,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.57	0.58	0.56	0.58	3,070,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.12	0.14	0.12	0.14	12,500,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.235	3,000,000
Music Corp.	0.12	0.14	0.12	0.12	870,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	20,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	550,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	200,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	5,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	4.95	4.95	4.95	4.95	1,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	6	6	6	6	6,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	90,000
Pryce Corp.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	1,000,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	18,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	1,700,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	166,500
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10	10	10	10	5,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	5,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10	10	10	10	5,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	996,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	2,760,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	2,288,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	96,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.5	5.8	5.5	5.8	6,615,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	250,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	30,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	60,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	200,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	14,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	10,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	60,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	50,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.195	0.24	0.195	0.24	100,000

CURRENCIES

Oct. 11, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.014610	1.000000	52.7370
Japan	Yen	0.008204	0.008086	0.4264
United Kingdom	Pound	1.587054	1.564200	82.4912
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130083	0.128210	6.7614
Switzerland	Franc	0.683285	0.673446	35.5155
Canada	Dollar	0.638441	0.629247	33.1846
Singapore	Dollar	0.565999	0.557849	29.4193
Australia	Dollar	0.554886	0.546896	28.8417
Bahrain	Dinar	2.691989	2.653224	139.9231
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.270563	0.266667	14.0632
Brunei	Dollar	0.566570	0.558411	29.4489
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000113	0.000111	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.023191	0.022857	1.2054
UAE	Dirham	0.276272	0.272294	14.3600
Korea	Won	0.000813	0.000801	0.0422
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.985600	51.9776
Argentina	Real	0.275709	0.271739	14.3307
Brazil	Real	0.258895	0.255167	13.4567
Denmark	Kroner	0.134627	0.132688	6.9976
India	Rupee	0.210016	0.020713	1.0923
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.267038	0.263193	13.8800
Mexico	New Peso	0.099676	0.098241	5.1809
New Zealand	Dollar	0.486413	0.479409	25.2826
Norway	Kroner	0.137302	0.135325	7.1366
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017212	0.016964	0.8946
South Africa	Rand	0.097653	0.096247	5.0758
Sweden	Kroner	0.109469	0.107893	5.6900
Syria	Pound	0.022955	0.022624	1.1931
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.028980	0.028563	1.5063
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000691	0.000681	0.0359

Phil-Asia care plea junked

THE 13TH division of the Court of Appeals dismissed the petition of Phil-Asia Care Plans Inc. questioning the Securities and Exchange Commission's cease-and-desist order against the company for the alleged fraudulent sale of pre-need plans.

Last month, the SEC ordered the closure of Phil-Asia, said to be an unlicensed pre-need corporation.

The city legal officer of the business permit and licensing division of Pasig City also withdrew the business permit of Phil-Asia and padlocked its main office.

In a press statement, the SEC said, "The appropriate criminal charges are being readied against Afulugencia and his associates in line with the commission's thrust to rid the pre-need industry of unscrupulous agents and corporations."

In its decision dismissing the motion of certiorari filed by Phil-Asia, the Court of Appeals 13th division noted there were documentary deficiencies in the petition.

The CA also rejected Phil-Asia's imputation of grave abuse of discretion against the SEC.

Despite the CDO issued by the SEC last month, Phil-Asia allegedly continued its activities, SEC compliance and enforcement department director Jose Tomas Syquia earlier told reporters.

The SEC plans to revoke the corporate license of Phil-Asia Care Plans, which used to have a secondary license to operate as a pre-need company a decade ago.

Syquia said that the SEC had asked the help of the League of Mayors to help in curbing the alleged illegal activities of Phil-Asia Care Plans, which has strong presence in the province. *Elena R. Torrijos*

ang tan golf Club & Shares, Inc.

Partial list only. Prices in Hundred Thousands
SEC Licensed Golf & Club Shares Brokers No 10573
268 Kalentong Street, Mandaluyong City

SELLING
Alabang A/B 1.5M/1.6M
Camp John Hay Golf 240,000
Capitol Hills 100,000
Celebrity 185,000
Eagle Ridge A/B/C 310/330/450
Forest Hills "A"/B 180/230
Forest Hills "C" Please call
Manila Golf (Indv)/Corp 10M
Manila Southwoods "A"/B 560/560
Mt. Malarayat "A"/C 330/450
Quezon City Sports 210,000
Sherwood 55,000
Subic Yacht (Indv) 120,000
Tagaytay Highland Golf 820,000
Tagaytay Highland Club 375,000
Wack Wack 6,750,000
BUYING:
Fontana A/C 160/85
Forest Hills "A"/B 185/220
Makati Sports "A" 230,000
Manila Polo 2.550M
Manila Southwoods "A"/B 520,000
Manila Sports "A" 230,000
Quezon City Sports 200,000
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OUR 21st Year
AS OF OCTOBER 11, 2002

		ASKED PRICE	BID PRICE
1	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,500,000.00	1,400,000.00
2	CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB "B"	—	70,000.00
3	CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	450,000.00	—
4	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	100,000.00	please call
5	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	please call	—
6	EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "C"	500,000.00	—
7	EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB	150,000.00	please call
8	FONTANA "D"	70,000.00	—
9	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	280,000.00	230,000.00
10	MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	600,000.00	please call
11	MANILA GOLF CLUB (Ind)	—	10,000,000.00
12	MANILA GOLF CLUB (Corp)	please call	10,000,000.00
13	MANILA POLO CLUB	2,700,000.00	2,550,000.00
14	MIMOSA (Ind)	125,000.00	—
15	MT MALARAYAT "C"	please call	—
16	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C"	please call	—
17	PUEBLO DE ORO	400,000.00	—
18	PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB "A"	100,000.00	—
19	PUNTA FUEGO	650,000.00	—
20	PHIL. COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION	70,000.00	—
21	ROYALE TAGAYTAY "B"	110,000.00	70,000.00
22	SHERWOOD HILLS "B"	150,000.00	please call
23	SPA & LODGE	600,000.00	please call
24	SPLENDIDO	—	500,000.00
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Buena Vista Country Club	Pls. Call	-
Camp John Hay	250,000	Pls. Call
Capitol Hills Golf & CC A/B*	110,000	100,000
Canyon Woods	180,000	Pls. Call
Canlubang Golf	550,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club	180,000	75,000
Celebrity Sports Club	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
City Sports Club	830,000	Pls. Call
Club Filipino	190,000	-
Eagleridge "A"/"C"*	550,000*	-
Eastridge "B"	170,000	130,000
Evercrest	135,000	-
Fairways & Blue Waters C1	600,000	-
Fontana D/C*/A**	70,000/140,000*/230,000**	-
Forest Hills "A"/C*	230,000/250,000*	200,000
Luisita Golf Club	-	300,000
Manila Golf Ind./Corp.*	12,000,000*	-
Manila Polo	2,700,000	2,550,000
Makati Sports Club A/B*	Pls. Call	240,000
Manila Yacht Club	610,000	-
Manila Southwoods A/B*	650,000/720,000*	-
Metropolitan Club	-	90,000
Mimosa Golf Ind./Corp.*	140,000	100,000/250,000*
Mt. Malarayat Ind./Corp.*	350,000/450,000*	-
Orchard Golf Corp*	Pls. Call/Pls. Call*	Pls. Call
Phil. Columbian	65,000	Pls. Call
Puerto Azul "A"/"B"	100,000/150,000*	-
Punta Fuego	495,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club "A"	220,000	200,000
Riviera Golf "A"/"C"*	180,000/380,000*	110,000
Riviera Golf "B"	Pls. Call	130,000
Royale Tagaytay A/C*	90,000/Pls. Call*	-
Rockwell Club	-	-
Sherwoods "A"/"B"*/"C"**	165,000/Pls. Call*	-
Sta. Elena Golf "A"/B*	Pls. Call/Pls. Call*	Pls. Call
Subic Bay Yacht Club "Corp"	330,000	-
Subic Golf	180,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	400,000	350,000
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	Pls. Call	800,000
Tagaytay Midlands	830,000	750,000
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CALATAGAN "A"	90,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	270,000
CANLUBANG GC	520,000
CAPITOL HILLS	115,000
CC AT TAGAYTAY	380,000
MANILA GOLF (INDIV)	12,000,000
MLA STHWOODS "A"	640,000
MLA STHWOODS "B"	650,000
ORCHARD GCC "A"	Call now
RIVIERA GCC "A"	Call now
STA. ELENA "A"	1,620,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	780,000

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CANYON WOODS	180,000
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FOREST HILLS "A"	200,000
MANILA GOLF (INDIV)	11,000,000
MANILA POLO	2,600,000
MLA STHWOODS "A"	550,000
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Baguio Country Club	Please Call	730,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	85,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	110,000
Camp John Hay	-	260,000
Canlubang	450,000	550,000
Canyonwoods	-	Please Call
Capitol Hills	-	110,000
Celebrity Sports Club	180,000	210,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	-	100,000
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	-	220,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	270,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	225,000	260,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	-	280,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	Please Call	12,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,000,000	Please Call
Manila Polo	2,600,000	Please Call
Manila Southwoods "A"	Please Call	600,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	Please Call	700,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	Please Call
Metropolitan Club "A"	-	110,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	-	150,000
Mimosa (Individual)	120,000	140,000
Montemar (Individual)	-	35,000
Mt. Malarayat (Individual)	Please Call	330,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	100,000
Punta Fuego	-	Please Call
Quezon City Sports Club	180,000	220,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	350,000	450,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	90,000
Sta. Elena "A"	-	1,625,000
Sta. Elena "B"	-	1,900,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	280,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	170,000
Tagaytay Country Club	350,000	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands	800,000	Please Call
Tagaytay Midlands	750,000	800,000
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	-	170,000
Valley Golf	260,000	-
Wack-Wack Golf Club	Please Call	7,300,000

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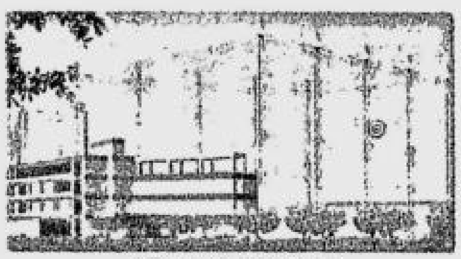

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Quid pro quo broached to break tuna deadlock

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINES' lobby to gain wider access for its canned tuna exports to Europe could get a big lift if Manila acts favorably on the European Union's long-standing petition for the Philippines to lower its duties and taxes on European liquor and distilled spirits.

Eammon Staunton, first secretary for trade and investment of the British Embassy, said in a news conference that the Philippines should cut its high tariffs and duties that were discriminating European liquor and spirits makers in favor of local distillers as part of its canned tuna lobby.

The European Union has been complaining over the past few years that the Philippines has been slapping unreasonably high tariffs on European liquor and spirits. These products are slapped tariffs ranging from 50 to 100 percent.

The European Union has also been asking that Manila broaden its excise tax system to accommodate more price brackets.

Staunton suggested that acting favorably on these requests could help boost the Philippines' lobby for access of its canned tuna to Europe.

Staunton, however, was quick to add that the case of liquor was different from the Philippines' tuna lobby, considering that what the European Union was asking required congressional approval.

The United Kingdom is one of the few EU members that have openly supported the Philippines' campaign to seek equal treatment for its canned tuna exports with competing products from Africa, Carribean and Pacific countries that were granted duty-free entry to Europe, one of the world's largest market for canned tuna.

The Philippines and Thailand have been frustrated in their previous bid to seek duty-free perks for their canned tuna exports.

The Philippines and Thailand want duties on their canned tuna exports lowered from 24 percent at present to between zero and 5 percent.

The two countries have carried their battle for equal trade access to the dispute settlement body of the World Trade Organization.

EU members can only amend the special trade pact, which will allow the 77 ACP countries to export tuna to the 15-member European Union under a quota system and zero tariffs after a unanimous vote.

Spain and France have been identified as the main opponent of the ACP perks expansion.

Europe is the Philippines' third biggest export market for tuna, with a 15-percent market share, behind the United States (38 percent) and Singapore (16 percent).

The Tuna Canners Association of the Philippines is keener on Europe than the United States because demand in the former has been growing 7 percent annually, while the latter has been stagnant for the last 15 years.

The Department of Trade and Industry said earlier that it would push for the inclusion of Philippine canned tuna exports in the European Union's Generalized System of Preferences to gain more access in one of the world's biggest tuna markets.

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STI offers non-IT courses, widens curriculum

THE SYSTEMS Technology Institute has broadened its information technology curriculum to include nursing, accounting, engineering and education to take advantage of the rise in demand for these professional services abroad.

STI recently established the STI Professional College of Nursing, the result of its merger with De Los Santos Colleges.

STI hopes to train more computer-savvy nurses and physical therapists to fill up the huge demand for their services abroad.

STI is aiming to meet the projected dearth in nurses, therapists, pharmacists, radiology technicians, sonogram operators and caregivers in the United States, Canada, Australia, Poland, Western Europe and Chile over the next three decades.

Apart from medical services, STI is also looking at meeting the projected rise in demand for accountants, engineers and teachers worldwide by setting up a separate "professional college" for these areas.

Just like its merger with De Los Santos, STI is looking to hook up with established institutions in the field of accounting, engineering and education to hit the ground running once it starts operations by next year.

STI said there was a need to meld IT subjects into these fields to prepare them for overseas deployment and cope with the fast changes in computer technology used in these services. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

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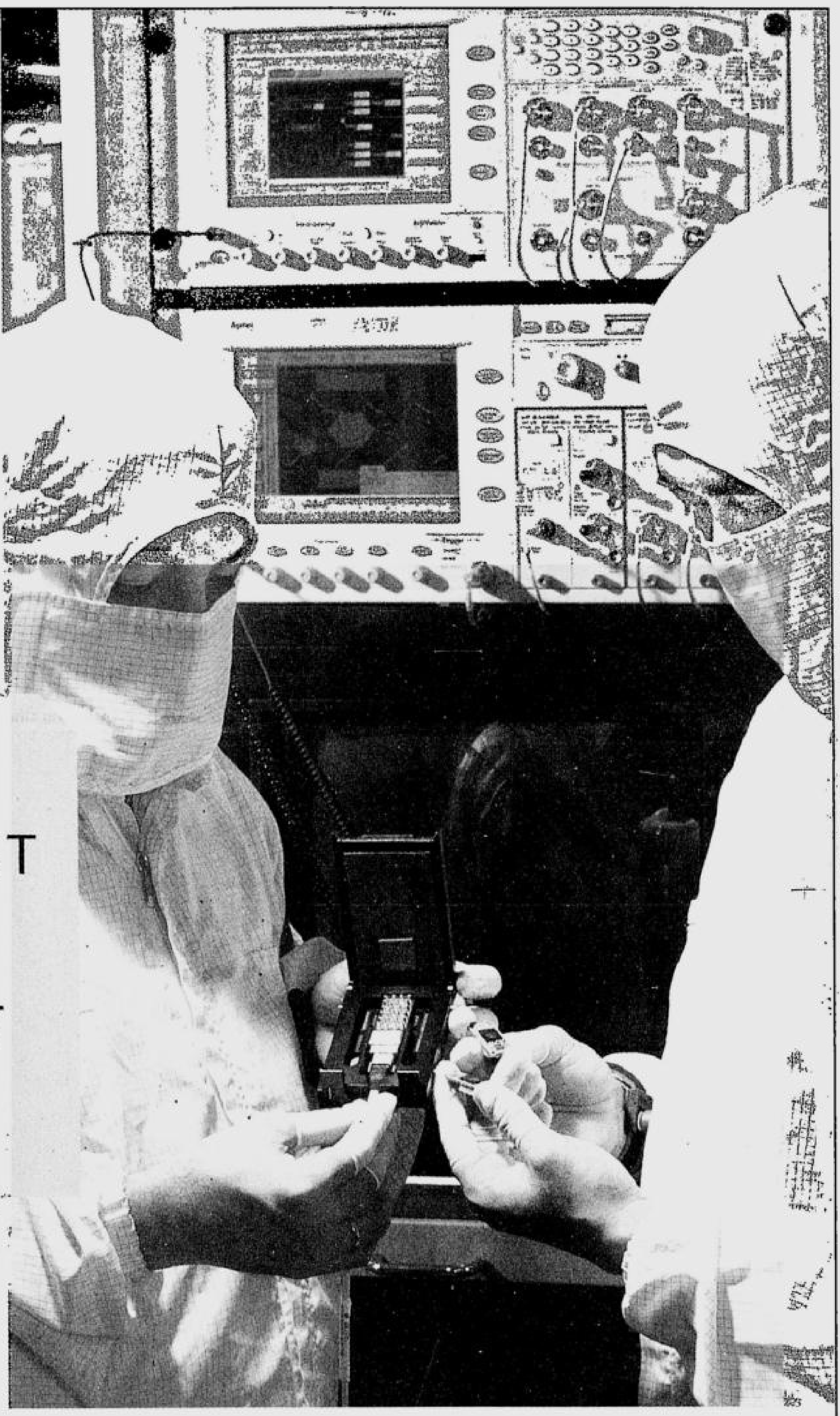

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BSP seeks review of GDP, inflation targets for '03

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said it would ask the government economic team to revisit by the end of the year its inflation target of 4-5 percent and the 4.5-5 percent gross domestic product growth forecast for 2003.

"We will push for a review of the 2003 inflation and GDP growth targets. There are so many factors that need to be taken into consideration now," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura told reporters last week.

Buenaventura explained that a weak global outlook could adversely affect domestic growth. He added that factors such as the rising oil prices, a possible wage increase in November and the El Niño weather disturbance were threats to a stable inflation.

The central bank is concerned primarily with the inflation target as it had committed to keep consumer prices stable through its monetary policies.

The policy-making Monetary Board of the BSP, under its inflation-targeting formula, must meet the inflation target approved by the Development Budget Coordinating Committee. Buenaventura said he was more comfortable with an inflation target of 4.5 to 5.5 percent for 2003.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, however, said she was not supportive of the recommendation of the BSP chief.

Last August, the inter-agency DBCC approved for 2003 a target of P51.50 to $1 foreign exchange target, an average 91-day treasury bill rate of 7 to 8 percent, an export growth of 10 percent and import growth of 11 percent.

The DBCC also approved a gross national product growth target of 5.1 to 5.7 percent. The inter-agency team is headed by the secretary of budget and has for its members the BSP gov- The benchmark 91-day rate forecast was lowered to between 7 and 8 percent from 10 to 11 percent.

Buenaventura said the economic team must consider sensitive external factors primarily the rising tension between the United States and Iraq.

This scenario is expected to push crude oil prices higher and prompt an increase in local pump prices. Rising crude oil costs usually put pressure on the peso and inflation rate.

"I don't think now is the right time to change targets because things could really change between now and next year. I think it would be better to review our targets by mid next year as what we did this year," Boncodin said.

CHALLENGE TO SMES
Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas (2nd from left) and Bulacan Representatives Nene Nicholas and Willie Villarama (3rd and 4th from left) inspect some of the products displayed at the "Likha ng Central Luzon" trade fair. Roxas, the fair's guest of honor, urged small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to take advantage of the huge opportunities in the international market for the export of world-class Philippine products. Majority of the participants in the trade fair are DTI-CARP beneficiaries.

Phil-Seven tempers expansion program

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PHILIPPINE Seven Corp. has put the brakes on putting up more company-owned 7-Eleven branches in the face of a weak market and tighter competition in the convenience store market.

Phil-Seven chair Vicente T. Paterno said the company would focus its resources on enhancing its operations, logistics and information technology system to cut costs and trim down losses before resuming its expansion program.

Paterno said the weak economy had curtailed the company's expansion program and that it had lowered its expectations to 200 stores by 2004. There are currently 165 7-Eleven stores in the country with four owned by franchisees. Paterno said the company would continue to accept applications for franchises

In his first year in office in 2001, Phil-Seven president Yen-Sen Yang had targeted to increase the number of 7-Eleven branches in the Philippines to 500 by 2005.

Yang represents the President Chain Store Corp. of Taiwan (PCSC), a 7-Eleven licensee in Taiwan, which acquired 50.4-percent interest in Phil-Seven shortly after the opening of the country's retailing business to foreign ownership in March 2000. Paterno's group, which founded Phil-Seven, retained 35- to 40-percent control of the company. It also put up Store Sites Holdings Inc. to take over the real estate properties of Phil-Seven since foreigners are not allowed to own land in the country.

Last year, Phil-Seven incurred P37.43 million in losses, up sharply from its losses of P11.963 million in 2000. Pardo expects Phil-Seven to remain in the red this year because of weak consumer demand and tight competition from new players such Mini-Stop of taipan John Gokongwei.

Part of the Taiwanese group's strategy in improving Phil-Seven's operation was to establish an efficient system that would allow it to manage a bigger store network; find the right product mix that would maximize the company's sales and profits; and make each store profitable to generate funds for the opening of more stores.

Gov't anti-piracy drive cited

A FORMER United States congresswoman and advocate for the protection of intellectual property rights recently cited moves by the Philippine government to put a stop to the growth of the textbook piracy trade in the country, saying this is "an excellent signal to the international business community".

The government, through the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), announced that it would take legal and law enforcement action against the proliferation of pirated medical, scientific and medical textbooks.

Former US solon Patricia Schroeder (Democrat, Colorado), in a meeting of international publishers in Washington, expressed hope that the Philippine government "will commence the drive soonest and sustain it", saying this "could help raise further the level of international investor preference for the Philippine market."

Schroeder was one of the longest-serving congresswoman in US history. She left the US congress in 1996 undefeated after serving for 24 years.

Schroeder, also the president of the American Association of Publishers (AAP), noted in the same meeting that the Philippines was once a major market for US publishers before the rise of rampant copyright piracy in the country.

The government move comes in the wake of a looming boycott of the Philippine market by international publishers.

₱1B earmarked for home loans

CHINATRUST (Philippines) Commercial Bank Corp. has set aside P1 billion in funds for lending to home borrowers and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in response to President Macapagal's call to the banking community to help the government in its efforts to spur economic activity.

Chinatrust president Joey Bermudez said President Macapagal during a dinner with nine bank executives recently had stressed the need for private sector support to its various development programs, particularly in providing affordable housing and supporting small entrepreneurs.

"We are happy to respond to the President's call as Chinatrust had been at the forefront of bringing down interest rates for home loan borrowers with its Five@Zero Home Loan package," Bermudez said.

Chinatrust had extended the Five@Zero promo and further sweetened the unique package by lowering the interest rate to 9.5 percent fixed for the first year of the loan.

Five@Zero is the only home loan program available in the market today that offers zero interest in the last five years of a 15-year housing loan.

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Department of Trade and Industry

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The following are the ISO 9000 Certification Bodies accredited by the Bureau of Product Standards – Department of Trade and Industry, as of 10 September 2002.

1. Certification International Philippines, Inc. (CIPI)

BPS-Accredited Scopes as of 31 October 2001

3 Food Products, Beverages and Tobacco Limited to Manufacture of Food Products and Beverages (DA 15)
9 Printing Companies Limited to Printing and Service Activities related to Printing (DE 22.2)
10 Manufacture of Coke and Refined Petroleum Products Limited to Manufacture of Refined Petroleum Products (DF 23.2)
12 Chemicals, Chemical Products and Fibres (DG Minus 24.4)
14 Rubber and Plastic Products Limited to Manufacture of Plastic Products (DH 25.2)
15 Non-Metallic Mineral Products Limited to Manufacture of Non-Refractory Ceramic Goods other than for Construction Purposes; Manufacture of Refractory Ceramic Products (DI 26.2) and Manufacture of Ceramic Tiles and Flags (DI 26.3)
16 Concrete, Cement, Lime, Plaster, etc. Limited to Manufacture of Cement, Lime and Plaster (DI 26.5) and Manufacture ofArticles of Concrete, Plaster and Cement (DI 26.6)
17 Basic Metals and Fabricated Metal Products (DJ)
18 Machinery and Equipment Limited to Manufacture of Domestic Appliances N.E.C. (DK 29.7)
19 Electrical and Optical Instruments Limited to Manufacture of Electrical Machinery and Apparatus N.E.C. (DL 31) and Manufacture of Radio, Television and Communications Equipment and Apparatus (DL 32)
36 Public Administration Limited to Administration of the State and the Economic and Social Policy of the Community (L 75.1)

2. SGS Philippines, Inc. (SGS)

BPS-Accredited Scopes as of 10 September 2002

1 Agriculture, Fishing Limited to Growing of Crops, Market Gardening, Horticulture (A 01.1) and Farming of Animals(A01.2)
3 Food Products, Beverages and Tobacco Limited to Manufacture of Food Products and Beverages (DA 15)
6 Wood and Wood Products Limited to Manufacture of Wood and Products of Woods and Cork except Furniture; Manufacture of Articles of Straw and Plaiting Materials (DD 20)
7 Pulp, Paper and Paper Products Limited to Manufacture of Pulp, Paper and Paper Products (DE 21)
12 Chemicals, Chemical Products and Fibres Limited to Manufacture of Basic Chemicals (DG 24.1)
14 Rubber and Plastic Products (DH)
15 Non-Metallic Mineral Products Limited to Shaping and Processing of Flat Glass (DI 26.12) and Manufacture of Bricks, Tiles, and Construction Products Baked in Clay (DI 26.4)
16 Concrete, Cement, Lime, Plaster, etc. Limited to Manufacture of Ready-mixed Concrete (D126.63)
17 Basic Metals and Fabricated Metal Products Limited to Manufacture of Basic Iron and Steel and Ferro-Alloys (DJ 27.1); Other First Processing of Iron and Steel and Production of non-Ferro-Alloys (DJ 27.3) and Manufacture of Fasteners,Screw Machine Products, Chains and Springs (DJ 28.74)
18 Machinery and Equipment Limited to Manufacture of Other Special Purpose Machinery n.e.c. (DK 29.56)
19 Electrical and Optical Instruments Limited to Manufacture of Office Machinery and Computers (DL 30), Manufacture of Accumulators, Printing Cells and Primary Batteries (DL 31.4), Manufacture of Radio, Television and Communication Equipment and Apparatus (DL 32), Manufacture of Medical, Precision and Optical Instruments,Watches and Clocks (DL 33)
29 Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods Limited to Wholesale of Other Food and including Fish, Crustaceans and Molluscs (G 51.28)
31 Transport, Storage and Communication Limited to Activities of Other Transport Agencies (I 63.40)
32 Financial Intermediation; Real Estate; Renting Limited to Other Financial Intermediation (J 65.2)
34 Engineering Services Limited to Architectural and Engineering Activities and Related Technical Consultancy (K 74.2)
35 Other Services Limited to Manufacture of Other Transport Equipment Not Elsewhere Classified (DM 35.5) and Legal Accounting, Bookkeeping and Auditing Activities; Tax Consultancy; Market Research and Public Opinion Polling; and Management Consultancy; Holdings (K 74.1)
36 Public Administration Limited to Administration of the State and the Economic-Social Policy of the Community (L75.1)
38 Health and Social Work Limited to Medical Practice Activities (N 85.12)

The Philippines, through the BPS Accreditation Scheme (BAS) is now a member of the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) - Multilateral Arrangement (MLA) for Quality Management System (QMS). With this development, the ISO 9000 Certificates issued by Certification Bodies accredited by the BAS will be recognized by all other members of the MLA that include the United States of America, European Commission, Australia-New Zealand, Canada, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, China, Mexico, Thailand, Indonesia, Chinese Taipei, and India.

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BSP to study impact of cut in key US rates

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is set to review the likelihood—regarded as a remote one—of cutting its overnight rates this quarter if the US Federal Reserve substantially lowers its short-term interest rates.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the likely scenario was for the Fed, de facto central bank of the United States, to impose a "token cut" in interest rates of about a quarter of a percentage point this year.

"With a nominal cut of 25 basis points, we will leave our overnight rates unchanged. But if the cut is substantial, like 50 basis points, we will review our policy if there is a need to cut (our rates)," Buenaventura said.

He explained that the current economic situation supported the Monetary Board's decision to stay neutral regarding the central bank's overnight rates of 7 percent for borrowing and 9.25 percent for lending.

Inflation, Buenaventura said, remained below target. Given the central bank's mandate of keeping consumer prices stable through its monetary policies, the benign inflation rate so far will allow the central bank to leave its overnight rates untouched.

Buenaventura said while the peso remained volatile, the local currency should recover in the coming months.

He cited the strong overseas remittance and growing exports as two major factors that should push the peso upward, as these would bring in more dollars to the spot market.

"I think we would keep on tracking the regional but with bias for appreciation," he noted.

Monetary Board approves merger of BPI Capital, FEB Investments

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has approved the merger of BPI Capital Corp. and FEB Investments, paving the way for the operations of one of the country's biggest investment houses.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said the capitalization of the surviving entity--BPI Capital—would increase to P5.9 billion from P3.5 billion.

BPI Capital is a subsidiary of the Bank of the Philippine Islands, while FEB Investments is a unit of Far East Bank and Trust Co.

BPI and Far East Bank merged three years ago. The two banks are still completing the union of their financial units.

"The merger would help strengthen the financial system, as groups consolidate to create bigger investment houses," Reyes said.

In 2000, several investment houses were brought down on their knees because of the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis, as most of their placements were in the property sector.

The property sector was among the hardest hit by the crisis, as portfolio investments fled Asia in search of safer havens in Europe and the United States.

The closures created a public awareness about investment companies that had often been misconstrued as a bank or a broker.

Some 50 investment houses are currently operating in the country. Only seven, however, have quasi banking licenses. Another seven have trust licenses, while the rest simply function as an investment house.

The seven firms with quasi-banking licenses are AB Capital, Multinational Investment Corp., RCBC Capital, State Investment Inc., BPI Capital, East Asia and First Metro Investment Investments Inc. These firms may accept deposits like a bank. *Clarissa S. Batino*

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Ms. Marides Fernando
Mayor of Marikina
Mr Samuel A. Pahm
Metro Kutawato (Cotobato) Development Aliance (MKDA)
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Mr Samee Lim, President
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Access Capital, Thailand
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MS CELIA M. GONZALES, Director of BSP's International Operations;

MS KATE HATHAWAY, former Chief of Staff of the CFTC of the U.S.; and

MS EMMA A. VALENCIA, SEC Securities Counsel currently in the thick of investigating "boiler room" currency and securities trading operations.

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LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

1598 M. H. del Pilar cor. Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 551-2200; 450-7001

STATEMENT OF CONDITION

(Head Office and Branches)
As of September 20, 2002

ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Items	P 3,520,662,198
Due from Bangko Sentral	12,541,945,192
Due from Other Banks	1,749,519,199
Interbank Loans Receivable	9,546,763,038
Trading Account Securities (Net)	164,659,471
Investment in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)	81,288,000,919
Loans and Discounts and Advances (Net)	95,250,679,606
Underwriting Accounts (Net)	111,166,864
Equity Investments (Net)	5,971,828,079
Bank Premises, Furniture,Fixtures & Equipment (Net)	4,597,568,453
Other Assets (Net)	
Property Owned/Acquired	12,965,684,630
Others	8,575,177,692
TOTAL ASSETS	P 236,283,775,341
LIABILITIES	
Demand Deposits	P 71,585,993,716
Savings Deposits	83,869,945,610
Time Deposits	16,815,561,587
Special/Other Deposits	811,458,972
Due to Bangko Sentral	54,975,103
Due to Banks	231,545,255
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders	1,733,944,137
Bills Payable	
BSP-Rediscounting/Special Programs	903,766,236
Interbank Borrowings	5,182,800,000
Deposits Substitutes	246,023,206
Others	24,677,957,099
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits	3,005,666,134
Other Liabilities	6,651,066,324
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P 215,770,703,379
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	
Capital Stock	P 9,700,000,000
Surplus	6,607,398,756
Surplus Reserves	3,661,412,077
Other Capital Accounts	544,261,127
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	20,513,071,962
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P 236,283,775,341
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P 6,508,645,374
Bills for Collection	686,689,447
Spot/Future Exchange Sold	7,092,583,625
Spot/Future Exchange Bought	(838,981,799)
Assets Held under Trust and Investment Management Agreements	11,712,657,722
Invested in:	
- Government Securities	6,101,409,199
- Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stocks	1,051,260,379
- Loans and Discounts	1,616,338,962
- Other Assets	2,943,659,182
Accountabilities:	
- Trust and Other Fiduciary	1,759,320,481
- Common Trust Funds	2,123,693,366
- Investment/Fund Management	7,829,643,875
Other Contingent Accounts	28,622,883,169
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P 53,784,467,538

Other Information

1. Deposits of:	
a. Government	P 115,650,350,093
b. Banks	3,667,027,796
c. Trust Department	120,105,395
2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law:	
a. Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 6% (Small Enterprises)	232.35%
b. Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 2% (Medium Enterprises)	191.44%
3. Amount of Non-Performing Loans	27,480,646,776
4. Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio	22.80%
5. Amount of Classified Loans and Other Risk Assets	46,658,678,256
6. General Provision for Loan Losses	865,692,722
7. Specific Provision for Loan Losses	14,674,303,996
8. Return on Equity (ROE)	8.40%
9. Amount of DOSRI Loans/Advances	1,826,990,859
10. Ratio of DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio	1.52%
11. Amount of Past Due DOSRI Loans/Advances	205,689

We, ANDRES C. SARMIENTO and MARGARITO B. TEVES of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above Statement of Condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

Sgd. ANDRES C. SARMIENTO
FVP-Controllership Group

Sgd. MARGARITO B. TEVES
President and CEO

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 9th day of October, 2002 in Manila affiants exhibiting to me their Res. Certificate No. 9452987, issued in Manila on January 9, 2002 and Res. Certificate No. 00667824 issued in Manila on March 27, 2002.

REYNAULD R. VILLAFUERTE
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2003
PTR No. 6774233
Issued on January 25, 2002
Makati City

Doc. No 319
Page No. 65
Book No. IV
Series of 2002

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION

(Bank and Financial Subsidiaries)
As of September 20, 2002

ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Items	P 3,524,324,314
Due from Bangko Sentral	12,541,945,192
Due from Other Banks	1,848,989,463
Interbank Loans Receivable	9,546,763,038
Trading Account Securities (Net)	164,659,471
Investment in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)	81,362,639,960
Loans and Discounts and Advances (Net)	95,150,482,843
Underwriting Accounts (Net)	111,166,864
Equity Investments (Net)	5,279,887,529
Bank Premises, Furniture,Fixtures & Equipment (Net)	4,701,934,110
Other Assets (Net)	
Property Owned/Acquired	12,984,097,410
Others	9,622,819,125
TOTAL ASSETS	P 238,839,709,119
LIABILITIES	
Demand Deposits	P 71,552,720,199
Savings Deposits	83,859,095,502
Time Deposits	16,815,561,587
Special/Other Deposits	811,458,972
Due to Bangko Sentral	54,975,103
Due to Banks	231,545,255
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders	1,748,929,030
Bills Payable	
BSP-Rediscounting/Special Programs	903,766,236
Interbank Borrowings	5,182,800,000
Deposits Substitutes	246,023,206
Others	24,677,957,099
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits	3,566,197,263
Other Liabilities	6,658,736,717
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P 216,327,766,169
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	
Capital Stock	P 9,700,000,000
Surplus	6,514,521,869
Surplus Reserves	3,753,159,954
Other Capital Accounts	544,261,127
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	20,511,942,950
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P 238,839,709,119
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P 6,508,645,374
Bills for Collection	686,689,447
Spot/Future Exchange Sold	7,092,583,625
Spot/Future Exchange Bought	(838,981,799)
Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Management Agreements	11,712,657,722
Invested In:	
- Government Securities	6,101,409,199
- Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stocks	1,051,260,379
- Loans and Discounts	1,616,338,962
- Other Assets	2,943,659,182
Accountabilities:	
- Trust and Other Fiduciary	1,759,320,481
- Common Trust Funds	2,123,693,366
- Investment/Fund Management	7,829,643,875
Other Contingent Accounts	28,622,883,169
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P 53,784,467,538

Other Information

1. Deposits of:	
a. Government	P 115,650,350,093
b. Banks	3,667,027,796
c. Trust Department	120,105,395
2. List of Bank's Financial Subsidiaries	
a. LBP Leasing Corporation	
b. LBP Financial Services, SPA	
c. LBP Remittance Co., USA	

We, ANDRES C. SARMIENTO and MARGARITO B. TEVES of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above Consolidated Statement of Condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

Sgd. ANDRES C. SARMIENTO
FVP-Controllership Group

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President and CEO

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$16-B FACTORY

Phillip Morris' new plant a smoking showcase

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

STO. TOMAS, Batangas—At a time when the "no smoking" habit is gaining headway among Filipinos and health buffs, the establishment of a P16-billion cigarette production facility by Phillip Morris Philippines Inc. inside the First Philippine Industrial Park here has not only elicited mixed public reactions but also drawn focus on the mammoth company behind the aggressive venture.

When President Macapagal-Arroyo led the facility's groundbreaking in July last year, she was all praises for Phillip Morris' decision to put up a factory in the Philippines despite the negative publicity the country had been generating.

Phillip Morris officials were apparently undaunted.

"We made this investment in recognition of the sound economic policies in place in the Philippines and in recognition of the Filipino's world-class talent and commitment to excellence," Phillip Morris managing director George Farah said.

Modern facility

The facilities are being constructed according to a schedule by about 4,700 workers from Leighton Contractors Philippines Inc., which handles every construction phase of the $300-million, 25-hectare manufacturing plant that Phillip Morris officials have dubbed as "Project Greenfield."

The plant's construction comes after Phillip Morris International and La Suerte Cigar and Cigarette Co., manufacturer of Marlboro and Phillip Morris brands in the country since 1955, decided not to extend their license agreement beyond its expiration on Dec. 31.

According to Phillip Morris engineers, what will be housed inside the main working area are sensitive and custom-built cigarette-making equipment that feature the latest in environment protection, quality control and work safety standards.

The structure will house the primary facility, where raw tobacco leaves are initially cut and processed, and secondary facility, where cut tobacco leaves are rolled into sticks and then attached with filters.

Also in the compound are technical plant corridors where electrical power will be distributed, warehouses for raw materials and finished goods, and an annex that will house a quality assurance laboratory, workshops, clinics and training rooms.

Phillip Morris Philippines officials say that the plant, which they say is the biggest in Asia, is capable of producing 40 billion sticks of cigarettes a year, with a little over 20 billion sticks intended for the local market.

Company officials have pledged to increase their annual consumption of local tobacco purchases as they expand their business in the Asean market.

Health issues

However, facing the company's aggressive thrust of putting up a modern cigarette production line is the emerging public consciousness that connotes smoking as "puffs of chronic illnesses, if not death."

The Department of Health revealed that based on their studies in 1999, smoking cost the country some P19 billion in health care annually and P13 billion in lost productivity of people who developed smoking-related diseases.

Health officials also noted that the government spent about P10 billion annually for the treatment of people with lung cancer and P4 billion for people with chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases.

The Philippines is the 15th biggest consumer of cigarettes in the world.

"Phillip Morris acknowledges that cigarette is one dangerous product, but cigarette continues to remain as also one legal trade. As far as the company is concerned, given those two parameters, we are still committed to manufacture and market cigarette in a responsible fashion," lawyer Raul Academia, Phillip Morris government relations manager, said.

A CIGARETTE vendor plying his trade. Phillip Morris is undaunted by a growing consciousness among Filipinos of the ill effects of smoking.

"As far as marketing cigarette is concerned," he said, "we are dedicated to marketing in a responsible manner so that we direct our advertising and promotions solely to informed adult who have chosen to smoke."

"We do not direct our marketing effort to minors, and we are more than willing to help the government in order to seriously address that concern," he said.

In a statement, Phillip Morris officials stressed that they strongly hold on to their corporate principle that "cigarette smoking is a decision adults and only adults should make."

"As a responsible corporate citizen, we are firmly committed to respond to society's concerns both in the Philippines and worldwide regarding smoking," the company said.

Academia said Phillip Morris was in touch with members of Congress for the adoption of a law that would strictly regulate the production, sale and use of tobacco products.

Philip Morris has implemented the Youth Smoking-Prevention Program to "keep cigarettes away from children."

Company officials said they were closely working with various institutions, including educators, retailers and the cigarette industry, to promote programs that would discourage minors from smoking.

Environment friendly

In the "Greenfield Digest," official publication of Project Greenfield, the head of the plant's environment health and safety department vowed to keep the site "environment friendly."

Marivic Arago, head of the department, said although the factory would not emit substantial amounts of hazardous substances in the air, the factory would be equipped with wet scrubbers and dust collectors to reduce the dust that will be discharged in the plant's stacks.

David Alcock, Leighton senior supervising engineer, pointed to several workers that were seen occupied in scrubbing the ceilings and floors. "We have to strictly maintain that these areas are all dust-free. From that phase of work alone, one can already realize the tremendous effort put in by Phillip Morris in securing the freshness and quality of its cigarettes," he said.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources requires all factories to minimize the emission of particles in the air to as low as 200 milligrams per normal cubic meter. But in the plant, according to Arago, each of the factory's eight stacks will only emit a maximum of 20 milligrams per normal cubic meter.

She said the manufacturing site would also have its own wastewater treatment plant composed primarily of a sludge bed reactor where microorganism would be used to break down hazardous elements before it is discharged into the wastewater treatment system.

Meat imports to drain dollars, kill local firms, hog raisers warn

DAVAO CITY—Hog raisers in Southern Mindanao have assailed the government's importation of meat, saying the practice is not only draining the country's reserve of "very limited dollars" but is also threatening the existence of the local hog industry.

In a letter to Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor, the Davao Hog Farmers Association said the million jobs created in the hog industry were "under threat" if this "buying spree" would continue.

In Davao City alone, it said, there were about 2,000 workers who were dependent on the hog industry.

The DHFA added that there were also "chains of industries, like corn planters, coconut workers and those in trading activities and in the utilization of byproducts of rice mills, fish plants and other crop by-products" dependent on the local hog industry.

Teresita Pascual, president of the Davao Hog Farmers Cooperative, said her group could not understand why the government, through the agriculture department, would continue its buying spree although the country's meat requirement would be easily filled in by the local industry.

Pascual said organized hog farmers here had 20,000 sows that could produce a little over 30,000 heads a month.

"These commercial farms comprise only 30 percent of the total hog production of the city, the bulk of the produce or 70 percent are from the backyard raisers located at the less urban and countryside areas," she said.

Pascual said the meat produce of Southern Mindanao had increased from 90,000 heads in 2001 to 60,000 heads for the first half of the year.

However, a record provided by the Bureau of Animal Industry showed that the country had imported 5.08 million kilos (about 80,000 heads) of pork in April alone.

Severino Mercado, DHFA president, said local suppliers could meet Metro Manila's daily meat requirement of 8,000.

Despite this fact, agriculture officials reportedly plan to scout Southern American countries like Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil and Chile for the country's meat needs.

"Why is the Department of Agriculture planning to go as far as South America to scout for meat?" Pascual asked.

WHAT THE PUBLIC SHOULD KNOW: PROPOSED MOTOR VEHICLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED LABOR REPRESENTATIVES OF CORPORATIONS AND ENTITIES ENGAGED IN THE BUSINESS OF WHOLESALE IMPORATION OF SECOND HAND MOTOR VEHICLES WOULD LIKE TO RAISE OUR OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED **MOTOR VEHICLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM** PARTICULARLY THE PROVISION WHICH BANS THE IMPORTATION OF SECOND HAND 10-SEATER DIESEL VANS.

A GOVERNMENT TASK FORCE HAS PROPOSED TO IMPOSE THE BAN PURPORTEDLY TO ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF JAPANESE AND AMERICAN ASSEMBLERS IN THE COUNTRY. THE CONCERNS OF THESE ASSEMBLERS HOWEVER ARE MISPLACED AND THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE IMPORTATION IS BASED ON WRONG PREMISES.

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

MYTH: USED CAR IMPORTS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DOMESTIC AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY ARE INCOMPATIBLE AND CANNOT VIABLY CO-EXIST

FACT: THE IMPORTATION OF SECOND HAND CARS AND VANS IS GEARED TOWARDS A DIFFERENT MARKET SECTOR, PARTICULARLY LOW INCOME AND MIDDLE CLASS FILIPINOS AND OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS WHO CAN NOT AFFORD TO BUY BRAND NEW VEHICLES. THESE VEHICLES PROVIDE MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO FARMERS, FISH VENDORS, VEGETABLE DEALERS, HAULERS AND SMALL INCOME PROFESSIONALS. THE PROSPECT OF OWNING A VEHICLE FOR PERSONAL AND BUSINESS PURPOSES THUS BECOMES A REALITY FOR THIS MARKET SEGMENT. FILIPINOS SHOULD BE GIVEN MORE OPTIONS CONCERNING THEIR TRANSPORTATION NEEDS.

MYTH: THE IMPORTED SECOND HAND VEHICLES ARE NOT ROADWORTHY AND ARE HAZARDS TO THE ENVIRONMENT

FACT: THE FOREGOING IS A SWEEPING GENERALIZATION. THERE IS NO CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE TO NEGATE THE ROADWORTHINESS AND ENVIRONMENTALLY COMPLIANT CONDITION OF SECOND HAND VEHICLES. IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THERE ARE ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS UNDER EXISTING LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS TO ENSURE THE OBSERVANCE OF SAFETY STANDARDS. THE ROADWORTHINESS AND EMISSION TESTS CAN READILY BE CONDUCTED TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THE VEHICLE SHOULD BE REGISTERED OR NOT.

MYTH: THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT BENEFIT IN ALLOWING THE ENTRY OF SECOND HAND VEHICLES.

FACT: THERE ARE MANY LOST ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN PROTECTING ONLY THE INTERESTS OF THE LOCAL CAR ASSEMBLERS. THERE ARE AT LEAST 300 COMPANIES OR ENTITIES ENGAGED IN SECOND HAND IMPORTATION WHICH TRANSLATE TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF AROUND 10,000 PEOPLE, HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF SQUARE METERS UTILIZED FOR THEIR OPERATIONS, AND MILLIONS OF PESOS PAID TO THE GOVERNMENT IN THE FORM OF TAXES AND IMPORT DUTIES ALONE.

THE SECOND HAND IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES PROVIDES SOCIAL BENEFITS. IT PROVIDES THE ORDINARY FILIPINO A MEANS OF TRANSPORT. IT INCREASES EXPORTS OF AUTOMOTIVE PARTS AND COMPONENTS, SUPPORTS ACCELERATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENCOURAGES AND ASSISTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NON-FORMAL AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY.

(SGD) Armina D. Esquierdo
WON-MIN TRADING

(SGD) Lito G. Honorico
K-CARS TRADING & PARTS

(SGD) Sarah Grace Q. Portugis
UNI-KO TRADING CORP.

(SGD) Andreline L. Gregorio
JA-EURO TRADING

(SGD) Maribel Valdemoro
KAIBIGAN MOTOR SALES

(SGD) Raquel C. Delgado
KORYO IMPORT & EXPORT TRDG.

(SGD) Jemmalyn C. Mendez
FIST INT'L. MOTORS

(SGD) Ildefonso (Jun) Castro
UNITED MOTORS

(SGD) Cristina C. S[illegible]pa
LIFE CAR TRADING

(SGD) Mary Jane Lallos
GNB TRADING, INC.

(SGD) Catherine C. [illegible]
HANSUNG MOTORS

(SGD) Annalyn A. [illegible]
YU SHIN MOTORS

(SGD) Eliza C. Ocampo
KIMS LTD. PHILS.

(SGD) Jackson O. Cuadra
HAESONG TRADING CORP.

(SGD) Orlando F. Narciso
CCM CAR SALES CENTER

(SGD) Jennifer Georgia Mac[illegible]as
A-VISION AUTO CORP.

(SGD) Manuel O. Rebong
HYOUNG GOO TRADING

(SGD) Marilou Laza Rafol
J.V. ENTERPRISES

(SGD) Antonio R. Bermudo
AUTO-8 MOTORS

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Philippine Daily Inquirer
PEOPLE at WORK LIVE!
Seminar Series

Nov. 11, 2002 (Monday)
Effective Interpersonal Communication
ALAN BARKER, Chairman, Strategic Consulting Services (Worldwide)
A successful manager is an effective communicator. But how does one communicate effectively with others? What are the components of this critical competency? What standards are applied to determine whether one person is a superior or average communicator? The answers will be revealed in this session.

Nov. 12, 2002 (Tuesday)
Coaching and Counselling Skills (Workplace Setting)
JOSEFINA O. SANTAMARIA, President, Career Systems, Inc.
Coaching and counselling skills enhance emotional intelligence, a key factor in career success. This presentation will cover the following: difference between coaching and counselling, when and when not to use them, steps in conducting coaching and counselling and expected outcomes.

Nov. 13, 2002 (Wednesday)
Strategic Thinking Tools for Managers (Overview)
TITA DATU PUANGCO, President, Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, Inc.
Managers need to think of how to align their function with the other areas in the organization. They have to appreciate not just the micro view but also the macro prospective considering the impact on the enterprise of the external environment and stakeholders. The talk wil provide an overview of the latest thinking in strategy management and implementation. It will enhance their need to pay attention to the bottomline results of today but also how to

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TIME: 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
VENUE: Santiago Hall, Mezzanine, Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, Makati Ave. cor. H. V. de la Costa St., Makati City, Metro Manila.

SUBSIDIZED REGISTRATION FEES: P250 (balcony), P300 (orchestra) and P350 (patron); Advance payment discount of 5% for paid registrations before Oct. 18; Limited discounted balcony tickets for teachers, gov't. employees (25%) & students (50%)

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P0.80/KWH REDUCTION IN RATES

Big electricity users to get discounts this week

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE ENERGY Regulatory Commission has said a provisional authority implementing 70- to 80-centavo discounts for industrial and commercial users of electricity will likely be issued this week.

Acting ERC Chair Leticia Ibay told reporters that the National Power Corp., 10 distribution utilities and several electric cooperatives had already completed all needed presentations.

"The ERC is deliberating on the petition," Ibay said.

"A provisional authority could be granted (late this week)," he said.

Napocor signed last month an agreement with 10 utilities and some cooperatives to cooperate on the "Special Program to Enhance Electricity Demand," or SPEED.

Before that agreement was signed, Napocor submitted a petition to implement the pricing incentive program only with the Manila Electric Co., which the power firm withdrew.

Napocor and the distributors agreed to give qualified electricity users fixed discounts of 80 centavos per kilowatt-hour in Luzon and 70 centavos per kWh for those in the Visayas.

Bulk users would also enjoy a 10-centavo discount for rates in Mindanao that government data showed were already the lowest among the country's power grids.

The SPEED program will initially benefit industrial and commercial consumers with a minimum monthly demand of 1,000 kilowatts.

It will eventually cover customers with a minimum monthly demand of 500 kw.

Regulators move to tighten rules on pre-need firms' actuaries

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is seeking stricter rules to ensure that actuaries provide the public accurate information about the financial health of their pre-need companies.

In her latest move to keep the pre-need industry in good financial shape, SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said the commission was closely supervising actuaries and their projections of actuarial reserve liabilities, a key guide in how much pre-need companies would pay planholders in the coming years.

"The ARL is at the heart of a pre-need"s financial health and we want to make sure the computations are correct because this in the end is the best protection for planholders," she said.

The SEC, in the past two years and a half, has forced the industry to shape up and invest more capital. This year alone, by strictly enforcing its rules, the SEC made pre-need companies raise their trust funds by P7 billion to P44 billion.

Actuaries are professionals who calculate insurance risks and premiums, taking into account the probability of the occurrence of various contingencies of human life, such as birth, marriage, sickness, unemployment accidents, retirement and death.

They also evaluate the hazards of property damage or loss and the legal liability for the safety and well-being of others.

SEC junks Multitel bid to delay hearings pending SGV review

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has rejected the request of Multitel International Holdings Inc. to hold off any proceedings against the company pending the results of a review by local auditing giant SGV & Co.

In response to a letter from MIHI counsel Vicente Millora, SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said the SEC did not see any hindrance or conflict in continuing the proceedings against MIHI while SGV was auditing MIHI's books.

Millora questioned the SEC's seizure of MIHI's documents.

The SGV audit was supposedly a step for MIHI to legitimize its operations in line with discussions with SEC.

Bautista said, however, that prior discussions to legitimize MIHI's operations should be premised on good faith.

"The commission, however, will not hesitate to enforce its mandate when it is clear that good faith is not present and discussions are being used as a cover for the perpetration of unlawful taking of investments from the public," she stressed.

Mirant powers 1,000 villages

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE COUNTRY'S largest independent power producer, Mirant Philippines, said it expected to complete next month a year-long program of bringing electricity to 1,026 barangays in support of the government's rural electrification program.

Mirant officials said in a statement that the announcement meant the energy firm's P1-billion corporate social responsibility program, dubbed "Project Beacon" (Barangay Electrification Assistance), would be completed a month ahead of schedule and would benefit 26 communities more than the originally planned 1,000.

Project Beacon, which is being carried through Mirant Foundation, started with providing distribution systems to about 200 barangays in Mindoro and Quezon Province, which hosts Mirant's Pagbilao power plant.

But Mirant said the biggest cluster of beneficiary communities was the 129 barangays in Albay.

The project covers service areas of 44 rural electric cooperatives servicing some 300,000 households in 33 provinces.

Citystate Savings Bank, Inc.

709 Shaw Blvd. Pasig City

Statement of Condition

As of September 30, 2002

ASSETS		AMOUNT:
Cash & Cash Items	P	20,566,772.61
Due From Central Bank		22,229,158.17
Due From Other Banks		42,955,111.25
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		474,860,660.37
Available for Sale Sec -Govt. Others		465,000,000.00
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		15,626,242.53
Equity Investment in Financial Allied Undertakings		399,500.00
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (Net)		105,043,230.40
Other Assets (Net):		
Property Owned/ Acquired		37,649,604.60
Others		75,073,230.48
TOTAL ASSETS	P	1,259,403,510.41
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	34,297,275.68
Savings Deposits		708,359,355.69
Time Deposits		23,561.09
Due to BSP		250,262.31
Managers Check		7,705,494.81
Accrued Interest, Taxes & Other Expenses Payable		4,573,088.53
Unearned Income & Other Deferred Credits		2,758,708.60
Other Liabilities		24,359,000.40
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	782,326,747.31
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS:		
Capital Stock	P	441,000,000.00
Paid-In Surplus		2,222,444.00
Surplus Free		16,210,419.50
Undivided Profits		17,643,899.44
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	477,076,763.10
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	1,259,403,510.41
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS:		
Items Held For Safekeeping	P	351.00
Items Held As Collateral		366.00
Outward Bills for Collections		176,220.54
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	176,937.54

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COMPLIANCE WITH MAGNA CARTA LAW:

Prescribed Rates of Compliance	6% For Small Enterprises	2% For Medium Enterprises
Actual Compliance	110.19 %	892.16 %

OTHER INFORMATION: (CB Circular 208)

Non-performing loans and	P	39,359,307.57
Ratio to total Loan Portfolio		8.07%
Classified loans and other risk assets	P	39,359,307.57
General loan loss reserve	P	901,275.75
Specific loan loss reserve	P	12,041,906.27
Return on equity (ROE)		3.74%
DOSRI loans/advances	P	13,495,587.16
Ratio to total loan portfolio, and		2.77%
Past due DOSRI loans/advances and ratio to total portfolio		N-O-N-E

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS:

D. Alfred A. Cabangon
President

Atty. Rey D. Delfin
Executive Vice President

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
PASIG CITY) S.S.

We, Eduardo O. Olavario and D. Alfred A. Cabangon, solemnly swear that all matters set forth in this report are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

Sgd. EDUARDO O. OLAVARIO
Vice President

Sgd. D. ALFRED A. CABANGON
President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 07th day of October, 2002, affiant exhibiting to me their Residence Certificate No 13384053 issued at Bacoor, Cavite on February 1, 2002 and Residence Certificate No 07743368 issued at Mandaluyong City on January 14, 2002 respectively.

Sgd. TEODORO O. VILLAPENA, JR.
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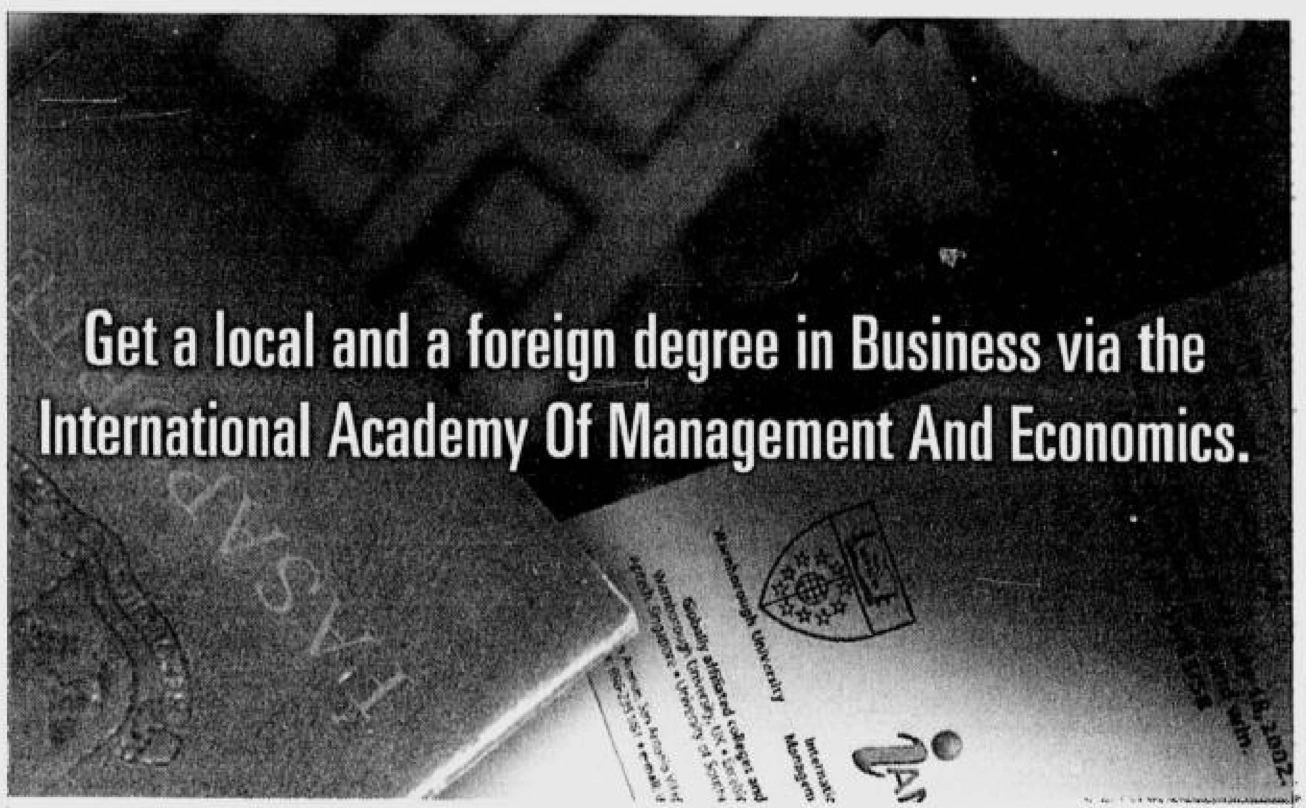
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AN OPEN LETTER TO TAXPAYERS AND ACCOUNTANTS

07 October 2002

Dear Sir / Madam:

The Bureau of Internal Revenue has, over the past several years, invested time, manpower and financial resources and labored with the business community, concerned National Government Agencies, and our international donor agencies, to develop Integrated Tax System (ITS) Taxpayer Datebases. These computer databases contain, among others, information culled from tax returns and payments, schedules of sales and purchases, transactions involving real property, tax credits and refunds granted, and sundry others, including Third Party Information such as import declaration or entries from the Bureau of Customs, government contracts and procurement activities.

This August 2002, the Bureau started harnessing some of these databases - and the data contained therein - in a computerized system that matched sales declarations in a taxpayer's tax returns on file with the ITS, against the aggregate reports of purchases submitted by the taxpayer's customers in accordance with Revenue Regulations [RR] No. 13-97 (as amended by RR No. 7-99). To date, over six hundred companies have been identified by the system to have either not reported or under-reported sales totaling P12 billion. Of these number, eleven (11) companies were already charged in court for having glaring sales discrepancies of from 80% to 90%, evidencing fraud. The computerized matching and reconciliation system is now a regular feature of the Bureau's control system to insure full observance from hereon of the country's tax laws, rules and regulations.

It has long been the avowed policy of this Bureau to work with the business community and its constituent taxpayers in a manner that is indicative of mutual trust and confidence. Indeed, the Bureau is committed to a tax system that is founded on the inseparable principles of self-assessment and voluntary full disclosure that are the pillars of progressive taxation. If at all possible, the Bureau would prefer to rather dump measures that would add to the already considerable burden of doing business in a recovering economy, such as the issuance of Letters of Authority, the conduct of Surveillance Missions, and the implementation of Closure Orders. We are also fully sensitive about the pressures placed on a taxpayer's financial resources by penalties, fines, and surcharges for deficiency or delinquency taxes. Finally, going to court to enforce our tax laws in a course of action we intend to pursue only as a last resort.

October 25th, the deadline for the filling of VAT Returns for the 3rd Quarter of CY 2002, is just days away and we trust that the members of the business community will make a full and accurate disclosure of their sales and purchases, and pay the correct taxes, for the sake of our beloved country and our fellow Filipinos. The international community has been observing with keen interest our efforts to sustain our economic recovery, and our foreign investors are eager to see us "put our house in order". To this end, the possibility that our computerized matching system might identify many business taxpayers as "tax evaders" who must be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, presents an image of people who do not want their government to function.

As Commissioner of Internal Revenue, it is my sworn duty to protect law-abiding taxpayers from graft and corrupt practices that morally injure and strain honest efforts to do business in our economy. Yet it is also my commitment as a public official to fully enforce our tax laws, inasmuch as the revenues generated from the enforcement of these laws is truly the lifeblood of our nation. The men and women of the Bureau are behind me as I endeavor to fulfill this mission - I trust, therefore, that the taxpaying public will be open to the much prayed for change in paying their taxes honestly and correctly.

Yours faithfully,

GUILLERMO L. PARAYNO, Jr.
Commissioner of Internal Revenue

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BIG SALES DROP

US consumers pause in Sept., worry in October

WASHINGTON—US consumers took a break in September as retail sales posted their biggest drop since late last year, the government said on Friday, while a slide in an index of consumer sentiment fueled worries about crucial household spending.

But financial markets again proved unworried by economic concerns, with stocks adding to Thursday's sharp gains with a second huge rally.

The Commerce Department said overall retail sales fell 1.2 percent in September, hurt by weak car sales.

The fall was the largest since November last year, and came after three straight monthly gains averaging more than one percent.

Excluding autos, September sales actually squeezed out a gain of 0.1 percent.

A separate index of consumer sentiment, maintained by the University of Michigan, fell to a nine-year low in its preliminary reading for October.

The index dipped to 80.4 from September's 86.1, according to market sources. A final reading will be released near the end of the month.

Outlook critical

While the retail sales numbers had been expected to be weak, the softness in the sentiment index was a surprise.

With household spending making up two-thirds of overall economic activity, the consumer outlook remains critical to a US economy faced with a fitful stop-and-start recovery from last year's recession.

"The confidence data has done a terrible job of forecasting actual spending, and it has not paid to put too much weight on these survey results over the past year," said Stephen Stanley, an economist with RBS Greenwich Capital Markets.

"However, with auto sales apparently soft in the first part of October and the softer tone of demand at chain stores in September, there is definitely cause for concern," he added.

Financial markets were mixed in the wake of the data.

Stocks focused on the positive aspect of the retail data—sales excluding autos.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up 316.34 points by the end of the trading day, with some reassuring corporate news boosting the market's optimism.

The bond market, meanwhile, tumbled in reaction to the strength in equities, with yields marching sharply higher.

Auto sales down

While spending has been strong in the third quarter, aided by continued gains in income and mortgage refinancings, analysts worry that jitters about a possible US attack on Iraq, a related spike in oil prices and weeks of declines in stock markets will sap spending strength ahead.

Within the September retail report, gains were concentrated in three areas—building materials, health and personal care, and sporting goods and bookstores.

The biggest sales decline was seen in the auto and parts category, which fell by 4.8 percent, the biggest drop since a 9.7 percent decline in November 2001.

Car sales zoomed ahead in August, rising 1.5 percent as automakers felt the impact of the reintroduction of generous auto finance incentives.

But those lures did not appear as effective in September.

Still, analysts had feared the data could be worse.

Joseph Battipaglia, chief investment office for research firm Ryan, Beck & Co., said the slight pickup in the non-auto sales data was encouraging.

"That tells us the US economy is not showing further signs of erosion," Battipaglia said. "Consumers, despite some concerns about the war with Iraq, are going about their normal business."

Iraq jitters

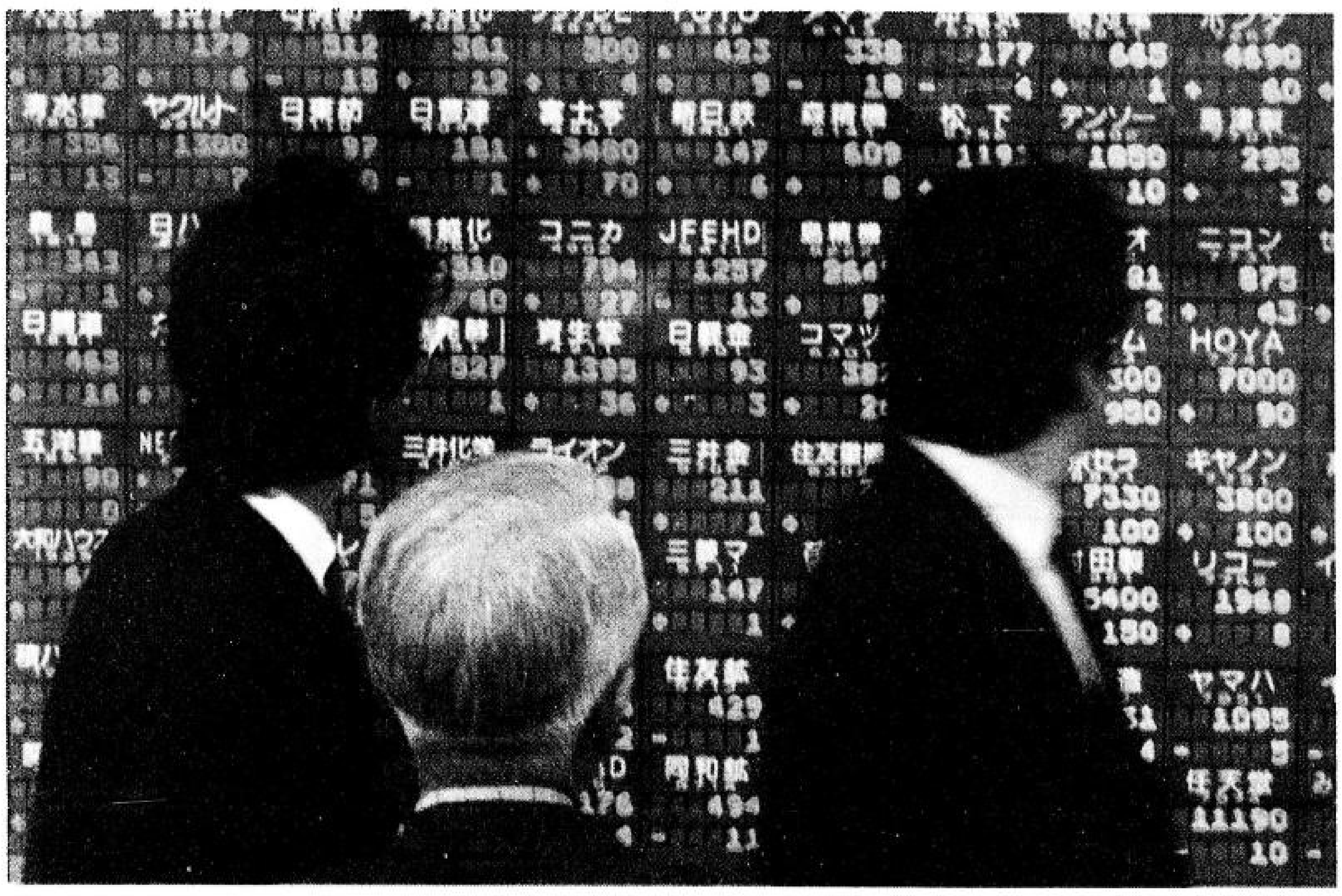
But analysts also said the growing tensions with Iraq likely weighed on the sentiment survey, which is directly released only to subscribers.

"Both consumers and business managers are having their confidence tested, not only by the economy but also by the geopolitical uncertainty," said Lakshman Achutan, managing director with the Economic Cycle Research Institute in New York.

At its last policy meeting in September, the Federal Reserve openly expressed worries that "heightened geopolitical risks" could hurt the economy.

While the consumer readings on Friday provided mixed news for Fed policymakers, they were able to take comfort from another tame reading on wholesale-level inflation in September.

The Labor Department said the Producer Price Index in September rose 0.1 percent overall and excluding food and energy costs. The reading shows the Fed has a low-inflation environment in which to operate, should it decide to cut short-term interest rates to boost the economy. *Reuters*



JAPANESE businessmen study share prices in front of a Tokyo brokerage Friday afternoon as Tokyo stocks take back some ground after sinking to 19-year lows Thursday, thanks to a Wall Street rally overnight. The benchmark 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average closed up 89.99 points, or 1.07 percent, at 8,529.61 Friday. AP

US Treasury pleased Japan acts on woes

WASHINGTON—US Treasury Undersecretary John Taylor, preparing to head to Tokyo for talks about speeding growth in Asia's largest economy, said on Friday that Japan's actions to deal with bad bank loans were encouraging.

"We have been very pleased with some of the actions that have been taken recently and there have been suggestions that there's going to be ways to improve the nonperforming loan situation," Taylor said to reporters at a briefing.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi recently named an avowed reformer, Economics Minister Heizo Takenaka, as his top banking regulator. Cleaning up Japan's sick banks, now burdened with hundreds of millions of dollars of nonperforming loans, is regarded as key to getting its economy back on track after a decade of malaise.

"Japan's economic growth has been very low . . . (and) Japan is such an important economy in the world that raising economic growth is important for the world economy," Taylor said.

Taylor arrives in Tokyo on Oct. 20 and leave Oct. 23 and, in addition to meetings with government officials, bankers and business leaders, is scheduled to make an address at Tokyo's National Press Center on Oct. 22.

Japanese stock prices have been plunging but Taylor, in response to questions, said he thought that addressing the bad loans issue would promote economic growth and "ultimately markets are going to pay attention to higher growth, higher profitability and ultimately that will be taken into account in the markets."

At the White House on Friday, the chair of the Council of Economic Advisers, Glenn Hubbard, also issued a statement of support for Tokyo's efforts to deal with its banking problems. *Reuters*

ACCOUNTING FRAUD

WorldCom's Myers pleads guilty in 2nd case

NEW YORK—WorldCom Inc.'s former controller, David Myers, pleaded guilty on Friday to a Mississippi state charge relating to his role in the more than $7 billion accounting fraud at the telephone giant.

Myers, 45 of Madison, Mississippi, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit securities fraud in Hinds County Circuit Court, said Mississippi Attorney General Mike Moore.

The state charge carries a possible maximum prison term of five years and a $5,000 fine.

WorldCom, the No. 2 long-distance carrier in the United States, filed the world's biggest bankruptcy case in July as the company buckled under $40 billion in debt and huge accounting misstatements.

In September, Myers pleaded guilty in Manhattan federal court to participating in the accounting scheme, saying he was instructed by senior management to falsify WorldCom's books.

Myers, who is cooperating with authorities, pleaded guilty to false filing of documents with securities regulators, conspiracy to commit fraud and securities fraud.

The federal charges carry a possible maximum 20-year prison term; however he is likely to receive a far lighter sentence because of his cooperation. His lawyer said he does not expect that the Mississippi charge will result in additional sanctions.

Moore said his office is working with the Manhattan US attorneys office in the investigation of the massive accounting fraud at the Clinton, Mississippi-based company.

Moore would not comment on whether his office or federal authorities plan to bring charges against WorldCom's former chief executive Bernard Ebbers.

"We hope to get everybody in upper management who was involved in this," he said. "We're edging up the line. We'll see where it takes us."

Myers reported to WorldCom's former chief financial officer, Scott Sullivan. Sullivan has been indicted in Manhattan federal court on fraud and conspiracy charges and is fighting the allegations.

He is accused of conspiring with others to begin the illegal scheme in October 2000, aimed at hiding expenses and thus inflating WorldCom earnings to meet Wall Street expectations.

The indictment alleges the scheme lasted through this June.

Three other former WorldCom executives pleaded guilty this week in Manhattan federal court and are cooperating with authorities. *Reuters*

IBM Corp. shares rise

NEW YORK—Shares of International Business Machines Corp. jumped 11 percent on Friday, helping to buoy the whole market, after Wall Street analysts turned optimistic about the world's largest computer company.

The Armonk, New York, company was top percentage gainer among the stocks in Dow Jones Industrial Average, fueling a more than 4-percent rise in the Dow. The technology heavy Nasdaq also was up more than 4 percent.

IBM shares, which have fallen more than 50 percent since January, and earlier this week languished near four-year-lows, closed at $63.92, up $6.34, on the New York Stock Exchange.

The rise came after Lehman Brothers analyst Dan Niles upgraded the stock and said third-quarter earnings at IBM should be in line with estimates.

Niles, who upgraded IBM's rating to "overweight" from "equal weight," added that stability in information-technology spending in the United States should offset weakness in Europe, and that IT spending should perk up slightly in 2003.

The rally helped boost stocks in broader markets. Experts, encouraged by healthy results from bellwethers such as General Electric Co. have suggested that stocks, battered amid uncertainty about the economy and slower corporate spending, may be poised to stabilize, and perhaps turn higher.

Scores of technology stocks—from chips to software—rode the wave of bullish sentiment higher on Friday. *Reuters*

European central bankers air concern over deficits

PARIS—Top central bankers from France and Italy publicly challenged their governments' budget policies on Friday, weighing into a raging controversy over the trade-off between steps to revive economic growth and reduce deficits.

Bank of France Governor Jean-Claude Trichet said there was no danger of economic recession in the world and urged France's center-right government to reduce the country's public deficit faster than it plans.

Italian central bank governor Antonio Fazio said the budget bill hatched by Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's government last week on the heels of the French one contained too many "one-off" boosters and not enough grassroots reforms.

Both men made their case at a time when national governments are torn between strategies to stimulate economic growth and the the constraints of deficit control imposed under the terms of the European Union's Stability and Growth Pact.

"The word recession is totally inappropriate," Trichet, who is slated as next head of the independent European Central Bank, said. "We will see a re-acceleration during next year.

He issued a message to France's center-right government that was unusually frank by the normally cryptic standards of central bankers.

"I ardently hope we can reduce our structural deficit next year by 0.5 percent and that we can have a budget balance or surplus in 2006," he said.

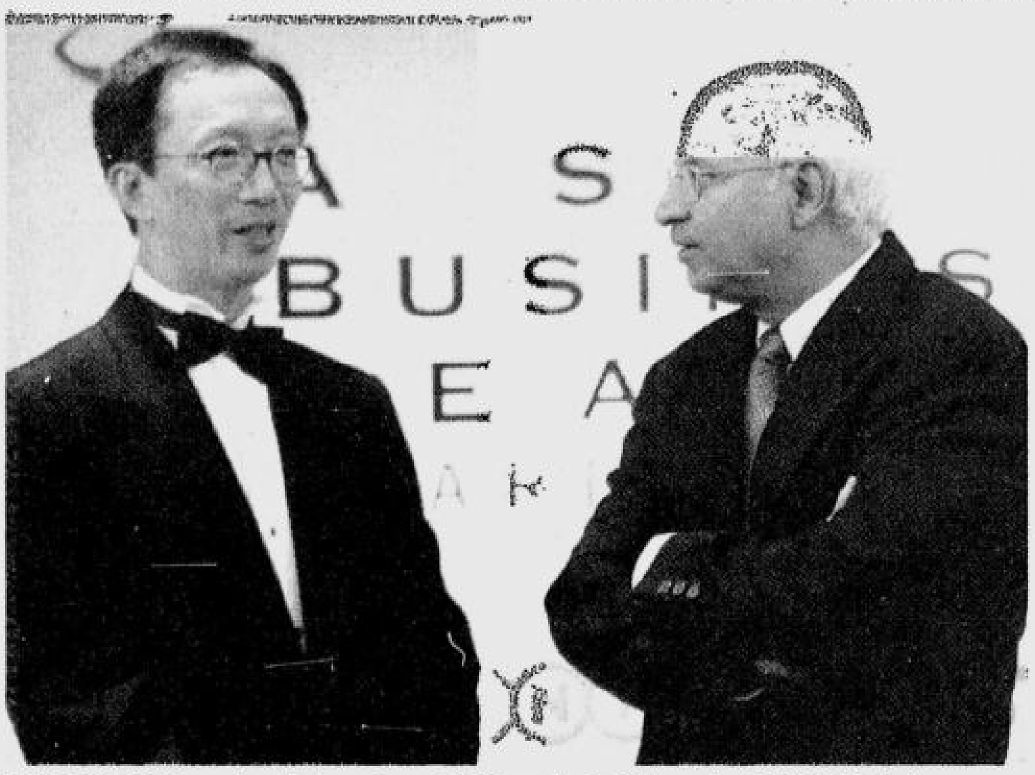
That is precisely what the French government refused to do in the budget bill it presented just over a week ago, a refusal that Finance Minister Francis Mer presented bluntly to his euro zone colleagues in Luxembourg last Monday.

Fazio spared no punches in criticizing the Berlusconi team's budget strategy announced last week.

"There is a heavy weight of one-off measures to try to boost income," said Fazio, who along with Trichet is a member of the ECB governing council that sets all-important interest rates for the euro zone. *Reuters*

FUEL CELL BUS

MEMBERS of the board of directors of DaimlerChrysler AG, Klaus-Dieter Voehringer, right, and Juergen Hubbert, center, posing with Ferdinand Panik, left, head of the company's fuel cell project, in front of the new fuel cell powered vehicles, a Mercedes-Benz A-class, right, and a Mercedes-Benz Citaro bus, left, at the DaimlerChrysler headquarters in Stuttgart, southwestern Germany. AP



HONG KONG Secretary Antony Leung (left) speaks to S. Ramadorai, CEO of Tata Consultancy Services, India. Ramadorai, head of Asia's largest global software solutions and IT consulting company, was named the Asian Business Leader of the Year. AFP

Wall St. ends losing streak

NEW YORK— Wall Street broke a six-week losing streak with a stunning comeback over the past week, fueling cautious optimism about an end to the long and grueling bear market.

The Dow Jones industrial average, bouncing off a five-year low at midweek, roared back to end the week with a gain of 4.28 percent at 7,850.29.

The tech-heavy Nasdaq, which touched a six-year low, surged 6.19 percent on the week to 1,210.47.

The broader Standard & Poor's 500, meanwhile, advanced 4.34 percent to end Friday at 835.32.

Analysts said the grim mood on Wall Street had pushed stocks to oversold levels despite reasonably good economic fundamentals.

"Although the week's economic releases failed to make the case for a strong economy, they offered little hard evidence that a new recession is imminent," said Bank of America economist Lynn Reaser.

Reaser said a strong earnings report from General Electric Friday helped sustain Wall Street in the second day of a spectacular two-day rally.

"Because the conglomerate is viewed as a microcosm of the US economy, investors grew more optimistic about the outlook for the overall economy," she said.

Some analysts said the bear is not yet out of the woods, warning of a number of failed rallies over the past few weeks as stocks slipped to their lowest levels in years.

"Coiled springs are prone to snapbacks but rarely result in brave new worlds," said Bryan Piskorowski of Prudential Securities.

"Having spent the last six weeks ratcheting down expectations, it doesn't take much to unleash the upside. But short-covering does not a bull run make—it only gets the bears to break even." John Silvia of Wachovia Securities said that the economy is still growing, albeit modestly.

"I still believe the odds do not favor a double-dip recession," he said.

"Our outlook remains for moderate growth of 3 percent for the next three quarters." But stocks, which have not tracked economic data, will probably take a cue from the spate of corporate earnings results in the coming week.

According to the research group First Call, 53 percent of US firms to report quarterly earnings have warned of lowered expectations, while just 23 percent saying they expect higher results.

One positive surprise over the past week was Yahoo, whose better-than-expected results lifted the Internet sector. *AFP*

GE sales rise

BOSTON—General Electric Co. on Friday said third-quarter earnings rose 25 percent as NBC television and the sale of its Internet commerce unit helped offset sluggish plastics demand and weakness in its key aerospace and power markets.

GE executives said during a conference call they expect solid growth next year, but plan aggressive cost cutting throughout the company. They said GE power systems, whose business has slowed after a long boom cycle, faces "dramatic restructuring." Chair Jeff Immelt reluctantly provided the first glimpse of GE's 2003 outlook. And Wall Street was glad to have it, as his remarks boosted GE shares 8 percent, helping propel a broad-based stock rally.

"I hate to do this before we've completed our business plan, but in this period of volatility I just feel it's important to give you our current thinking," Immelt said.

"Even in a very tough environment, our short-cycle businesses will experience good growth in (2003)," he added.

Immelt outlined five factors, which included cost cuts, that he said would create the foundation for "solid growth" in 2003. A more detailed forecast is expected in December.

GE met Wall Street's third-quarter expectations, but relied on the sale of its Internet commerce unit to meet targets. After GE previewed results last month, some analysts saw cracks in GE's armor, spurring them to cut 2003 targets.

"Certainly, versus the rest of the world it's a darn good quarter," said Morgan Stanley analyst Scott Davis.

"Unfortunately, it's really not right now that we're worried about. It's 2003." The maker of light bulbs, jet engines and appliances said it earned $4.1 billion, or 41 cents a share, compared with $3.28 billion, or 33 cents, a year earlier.

Analysts were looking for GE to earn 39 cents to 41 cents a share, with consensus at the top end of the range, according to Thomson First Call. *Reuters*

Carmakers in $13-B deal

SEOUL—South Korea's top carmaker, Hyundai Motor Co., said on Friday that it had agreed jointly to develop and buy auto parts worth $13 billion with DaimlerChrysler AG and Japan's Mitsubishi Motors Corp.

The move, which German-US auto giant DaimlerChrysler said it could not confirm, would mark the latest stage for Daimler, the world's No. 5 carmaker, in trying to squeeze cost savings out of its global alliances.

"The joint purchase will start as early as June next year," said a Hyundai spokesperson. The decision was made in Seoul at a meeting of the heads of each automaker's parts-purchasing division, he said.

The amount compares with $11.1 billion of annual purchases made by the world's top automaker, General Motors Corp., and $9.8 billion by Ford Motor Co., Hyundai said.

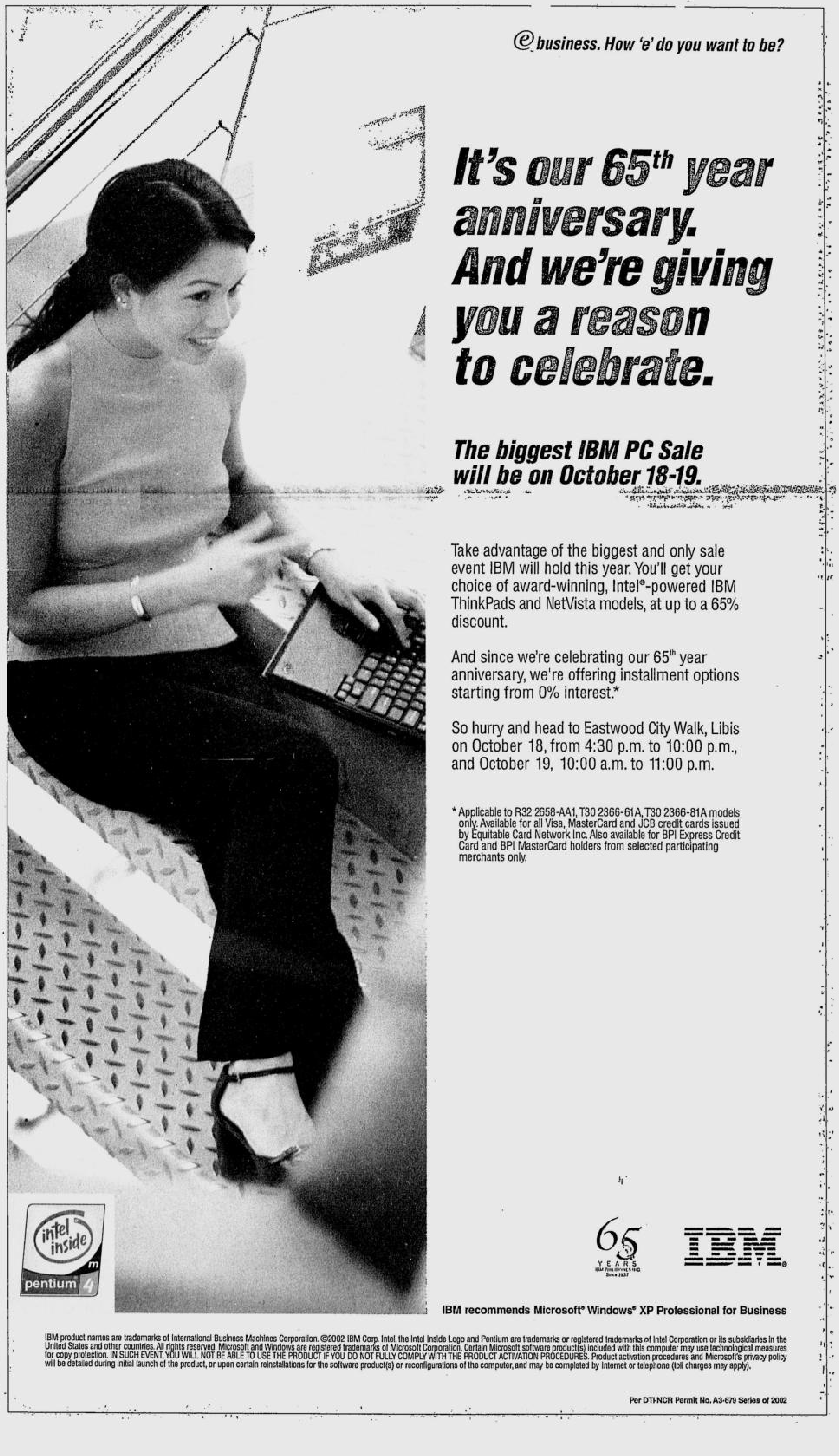
In Germany, a spokesperson for DaimlerChrysler, which owns 10 percent of Hyundai, would not confirm or deny its Korean partner's statement.

"We have many projects with our strategic partners about which there are ongoing talks but there are no concrete results so far," said the spokesperson.

Although DaimlerChrysler's mix of luxury brands such as Mercedes-Benz and volume producers such as US Chrysler has prevented it from integrating functions such as design, for fear of diluting the luxury brands, it has sought to prove to investors its global reach can bring in savings.

Parts purchasing can be shared across distinct brands as customers do not put the same value on a fan belt being distinctive as they do on the interior look and feel of a car.

In Asia, DaimlerChrysler also has a joint venture with Hyundai to develop truck engines, it is taking a direct stake in Mitsubishi's trucks unit, and has a cooperation deal with both Hyundai and Mitsubishi to develop a shared car engine. *Reuters*



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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

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Canon powers Meralco presentations

THE MANILA Electric Company spruced up its corporate presentations with the recent acquisition of 18 top-of-the-line multimedia projectors from Canon Marketing (Phils.) Inc.

"We upgraded our presentation equipment to get better quality presentations. Especially when we have foreign guests, we want to ensure that our presentations meet international standards,' said Armando Valencia of Meralco's procurement office.

According to Valencia, Meralco conducted an online bidding for the purchase of the projectors. It indicated the minimum requirements in the auction site and invited several major vendors to bid. He said Canon "not only surpassed the minimum specifications Meralco was looking for but also offered the lowest price among all bidders."

Canon's Turbo Bright System, high XGA resolution and Micro lens technology ensure that its multimedia projectors give razor sharp images in any light cóndition and even in very large conference rooms. Canon projectors also feature digital zoom and focus, remote control and plug-and-play convenience that allows even novice users to easily connect the multimedia projector to a computer, digital camcorder, HDTV or DVD and operate it in an instant.

"Although we have technicians, anybody can use the projectors with minimum assistance. They'll simply save their presentations in their laptops, for example, connect the laptop to the projector in the conference room and they're ready to go," Valencia said.

"Aside from being easy to use, it also gives them more creative alternative for their presentations. They're not limited to presenting texts or charts. They can use more exciting visuals through digital photographs and even videos," he added.

On top of the advanced features offered by Canon's multimedia projectors, the company also assures its clients of excellent after sales support to ensure that all its products continue to perform up to expectations. The company also offers up to two years warranty on parts and consumables, a customer help desk and even a moving service vehicle within Metro Manila for quicker response to service requests.

"Their after sales support even extend beyond the units we purchased. Sometimes they lend us extra units when we need them and all its takes is one phone call,' Valencia said.

GROUND BREAK
Gateway Mall

ARANETA CENTER UNVEILS THE GATEWAY MALL

Araneta Center recently celebrated a milestone with the groundbreaking ceremony of its P2-billion shopping complex, the Gateway Mall. No less than Araneta Group chair and CEO Jorge L. Araneta (left) led the lowering of the time capsule, a symbol of the future Araneta Center envisions for itself and Quezon City. Waiting their turn are (from left) Quezon City councilors Julian Coseteng (partly hidden) and Dante De Guzman, Jun Palafox of Palafox Associates, architect for Gateway Mall, and Kang Tang of Deshazo Starek and Tang, one of the eight foreign consultants for Araneta Center's redevelopment master plan. Due for completion in December 2003, the Gateway Mall, so named for Araneta Center's goal to become the hub of the commercial and business pulse of Quezon City, has 100,000 sq. m. of gross floor area. It sets into motion Araneta Center's 20-year master plan, bringing it one step closer to its goal of becoming an influential business and commercial powerhouse in the country.

EASYCOOK
CCA
US Dry Peas & Lentils

COOKING COMPETITION

Easy Cook Dry Peas and Lentils, in cooperation with the Center for Culinary Arts, Manila (CCA), held a cooking competition Aug. 22, participated in by the latter's young and active students. The event was done to prove Easy Cook Dry Peas and Lentils' quality and versatility. Easy Cook Dry Peas and Lentils are available in 400 grams at selected groceries and supermarkets nationwide. Exclusively distributed by Ideal Macaroni & Spaghetti Factory Inc., these high-quality peas and lentils are imported from Idaho and are classified as US No. 1 grade. For free recipes and inquiries, write to Ideal Macaroni & Spaghetti Factory Inc., care of the marketing department at 33 Luna 2nd Street, San Agustin, Malabon City or e-mail idealmktg@edsamail.com.ph. Shown are, from left, CCA marketing officer Lotees Dell Palacios, CCA school director Cristina Aquino, CCA chef/ instructor Gene Cordova and Ideal Macaroni product manager Mel Masiclat awarding grand prize winner Roel Vargas.

Swift Lean chicken is 98% fat-free

FOOD conglomerate Swift Foods Inc. has launched its new Swift Lean, a healthy line of skinless and boneless chicken, which comes in a healthy serving of choice cut packages from chicken thigh to chicken breast cutlets and fillets.

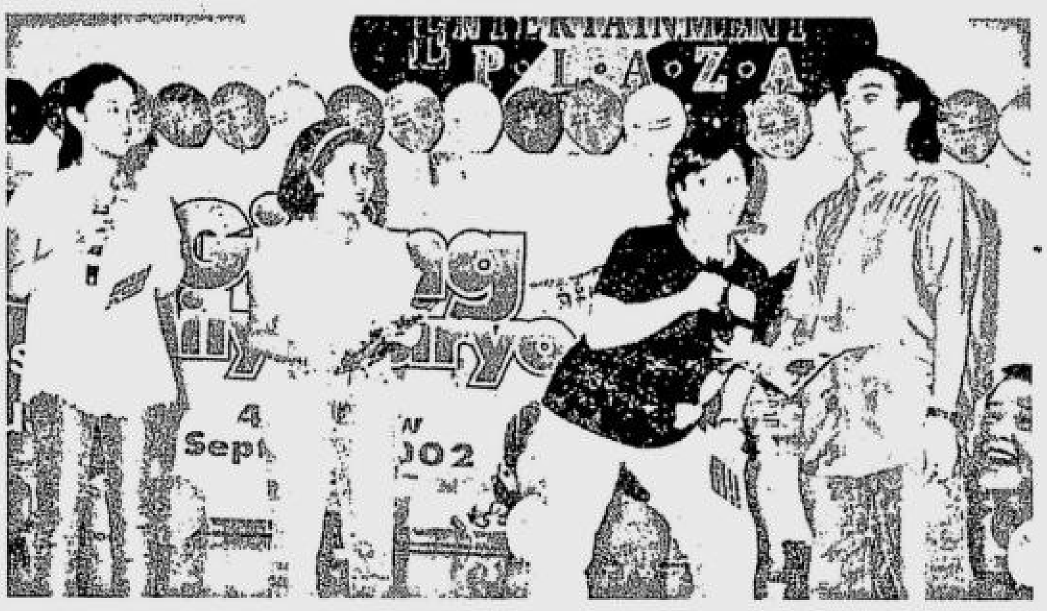
Swift Foods president and COO Bernie Concepcion said "Swift Lean is a chicken product that is 98-percent fat-free. It is low in cholesterol and sodium, thus making it extra lean."

One of Swift's focus this year is the development of fat-free chicken products that will meet the needs of Filipino consumers who are health-conscious. Swift has established a strong patronage among consumers nationwide for its high-quality Sariwanok and Swift Lean products.

Swift agri-business division assistant product manager Meryl Magpayo added that both the Swift Lean fillets and cutlets line are packaged in a way that they are ready for marinating and cooking.

"For one, fillets can be breaded and deep-fried, while the cutlets are ready to be included in Filipino all-time-favorite chicken dishes, without the hassle of cutting/slicing them into cubes and minus the bone," Magpayo added.

Swift Lean is now available at all leading supermarkets and groceries nationwide.



MAG-NESTLE ALMUSAL IN CEBU WITH PROMO

Two lucky Nestle consumers in Cebu recently won P100,000 each in the 4th preliminary draw of the Gising Milyonaryo raffle promo of Mag-Nestle Almusal. Five winners were also given 21-inch Sony TV sets and five 7-cu. ft. National Refrigerators. The winners are Cecilia Delante, who submitted a Nestle Fresh Milk pack, and Noel Rastata, who sent in a Nestea Lemon foil pack. Mag-Nestle Almusal is an initiative to encourage Filipino consumers to have breakfast every day to help maintain their good health and well-being. Shown are Region VII BFAD representative Generose Ruiz (2nd from left) and Nestle Philippines management trainee Jay Caballero (right) with entertainment personalities Heart Evangelista (left) and Ruby Rodriguez.

NESTLE PULILAN REACHES OUT TO BARANGAYS

Volunteers from Nestle's Pulilan Factory recently gifted street children in the care of the Nazareth Orphanage in Malolos, Bulacan, with school supplies and Maggi Milky Noodles. The orphanage, run by nuns, is home to almost a hundred street children. Another team from the factory joined a bloodletting drive spearheaded by Bulacan Vice Gov. and chair of the local blood council Rely Plamenco.

La Salle quarterly golf

THE LA Salle Greenhills Alumni Association and the Jubilarian Class '78 will be hosting the 3rd Quarterly Golf Tournament to be held at the West Course of Wack Wack Golf and Country Club on Thursday, Oct. 17. Tee-off time is from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Entry fee is P1,800 inclusive of green fee, lunch, giveaways, mulligan raffle and door prizes. Raffle prizes amounting to P150,000 will be given away. Mulligans will be sold at P200 per pair, aside from the free mulligans in the giveaways. Proceeds from the mulligans will be donated to the Project: Give a Life. Besides the usual inter-batch competition, a side event will take place featuring a friendly dual meet between High School class '78 of La Salle Greenhills and Ateneo de Manila. For more information, call 721-2729 or 722-7750. This tournament is sponsored by Ictsi, Smart Communications Inc., and Wilson Sports.

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For over 3,000 students who recently took the board exams for physical therapists at UE Manila, stress meant long hours of studying, reviewing and staying up late at night to prepare for the exams. To help them cope with this difficult period, they were given free samples of Stresstabs, the multivitamins specially formulated to help fight stress by replenishing needed vitamins and iron lost during periods of stress. Stresstabs has Vitamin C that helps repair cells and increase the body's resistance to infection – a must for examinees who stay up late at night and are constantly under pressure. It has a superior B-Complex formula for mental health to keep them alert. And it has Vitamin E to maintain immunity.

Product FILES

New SLT interchange

Tollway operator Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC), with approval from the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) and in coordination with the local municipal government of San Pedro, Laguna has constructed a new interchange at the South Luzon Tollway (SLT).

Shown is the construction of the 700-meter acceleration and deceleration lanes for the southbound entry/exit lanes of the interchange in San Pedro, Laguna. The new interchange is intended to provide better accessibility and faster travel alternative for the residents of San Pedro, Laguna in going to and from Manila or the southern Tagalog regions.

Chemical club confab

"MANAGING Transition: Perspectives and Strategies for Asean Chemical Industries" is the theme of the 32nd Asean Chemical Industries Club Conference slated from Oct. 15 to 17 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. The Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika takes pride in hosting this event which aims to achieve greater cooperation and promote development opportunities in the Asean chemical industry. This year's conference introduces a simultaneous event the Chem Asia Trade and Technology Exhibits. Chem Asia features the companies behind the products, brands and services in the chemical industry. For more details, call the ACIC 32 secretariat at 812-9854, 895-5735, 895-2392, fax 814-0970 or 890-7532. E-mail spik@pacific.net.ph or meetings@philonline.com.

KUMON
ADVANCED STUDENT

26 KUMON READING GRADS PRESENTED

Kumon Philippines Inc. presented its 26 reading graduates during the Advanced Student Roll (ASR) presentation held at the Hotel Intercontinental in Makati Sep. 1. The reading graduates are shown with Masumi Takahashi (left, 2nd row), president of Kumon Philippines Inc., and Shigemasa Shinjo (2nd row, right), president of the Toru Kumon Education Research Institute in Japan.

Bad times for big US drug firms

NEW YORK—Large US drug makers, struggling from a dearth of new medicines, a rash of patent expirations and steep regulatory hurdles, are expected to report dreary third-quarter results this month.

The stock market, which usually banks on drug makers in times of economic trouble, has already factored in many of the drug makers' major declines for the quarter and the year, sending the shares of Schering-Plough Corp., Bristol-Myers and others to multi-year lows.

Large drug makers are expected to report a 5-percent decline in earnings, on average, for the third quarter, according to tracking firm Thomson First Call.

The drug industry has shuttered this year as major drugs like diabetes medicine Glucophage and cholesterol drug Mevacor lose US patent protection, the US Food and Drug Administration cracks down on manufacturing problems and the companies find it difficult to use genetic discoveries to develop new drugs.

"We believe 2002 and 2003 are the most difficult years of the decade for the drug industry," said Banc of America Securities analyst Len Yaffe. "Pipelines aren't as robust and patent expirations are quite significant." *Reuters*

Markets seek clues from Japan, Europe

LONDON—Industrial production numbers from the United States, Europe and Japan will be in the spotlight next week as markets seek clues on the health of the global economy.

The week is expected to start on a quiet note with US and Japanese markets closed for a holiday.

But attention will then return to the economic outlook amid mounting speculation that the world's major central banks may have to cut interest rates before the year is out to revive sluggish economic growth.

"The output numbers are reasonably important because of signs globally that manufacturing is slowing. Last week, we had purchasing managers' surveys which suggested that manufacturing is contracting," said Sarah Hewin, senior economist at American Express Bank in London.

US September industrial output numbers are out on Thursday and economists polled by Reuters expect production rose 0.1 percent compared with a 0.3-percent drop in August.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, which serves the US mid-Atlantic region, releases its regional business conditions index on the same day.

"The Philly Fed survey is one of the first readings of what is happening in the US economy in October and the tone of data has been mixed recently," said Bank One Capital Markets economist Ryan Shea.

Last month the headline index rose to 2.3 from -3.1 in August but was barely above the zero cut-off point which distinguishes whether the economy is expanding or contracting. *Reuters*

China Telecom sets range for big IPO

HONG KONG—Telephone giant China Telecom Ltd., which hopes to raise up to $3.68 billion in the world's third-largest initial public offering this year, on Friday increased its planned dividend to entice investors spooked by sickly global markets, banking sources said.

The state-owned fixed-line carrier, which set the price range for its mammoth deal late on Friday, plans a dividend of 0.065 yuan per share, roughly one-third of forecast 2002 profits and higher than the previously planned payout of 20 percent of profits, a source said.

The shares are set to begin trading in Hong Kong and New York around Nov. 7.

"It's the bellweather issue for this year. All eyes will be on how this one does," said Henry Lee, managing director at fund managers Hendale Advisors Ltd. in Hong Kong.

The company has been preparing a market listing for several years and wants to use proceeds from the share sale to upgrade its networks.

China Telecom plans to sell 16.8 billion shares at an indicative price range of HK$1.48-HK$1.71 each, a price/earnings ratio of about 10.96 to 12.67 times forecast 2003 earnings, excluding profits from connection fees which have been phased out but will be amortised through 2011.

By comparison, mainland cellular giants China Mobile (Hong Kong) and China Unicom Ltd. trade at 2003 P/Es of 10.4 times and 10.9 times, respectively. *Reuters*

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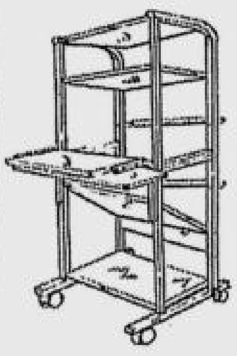

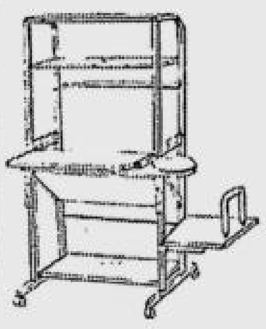

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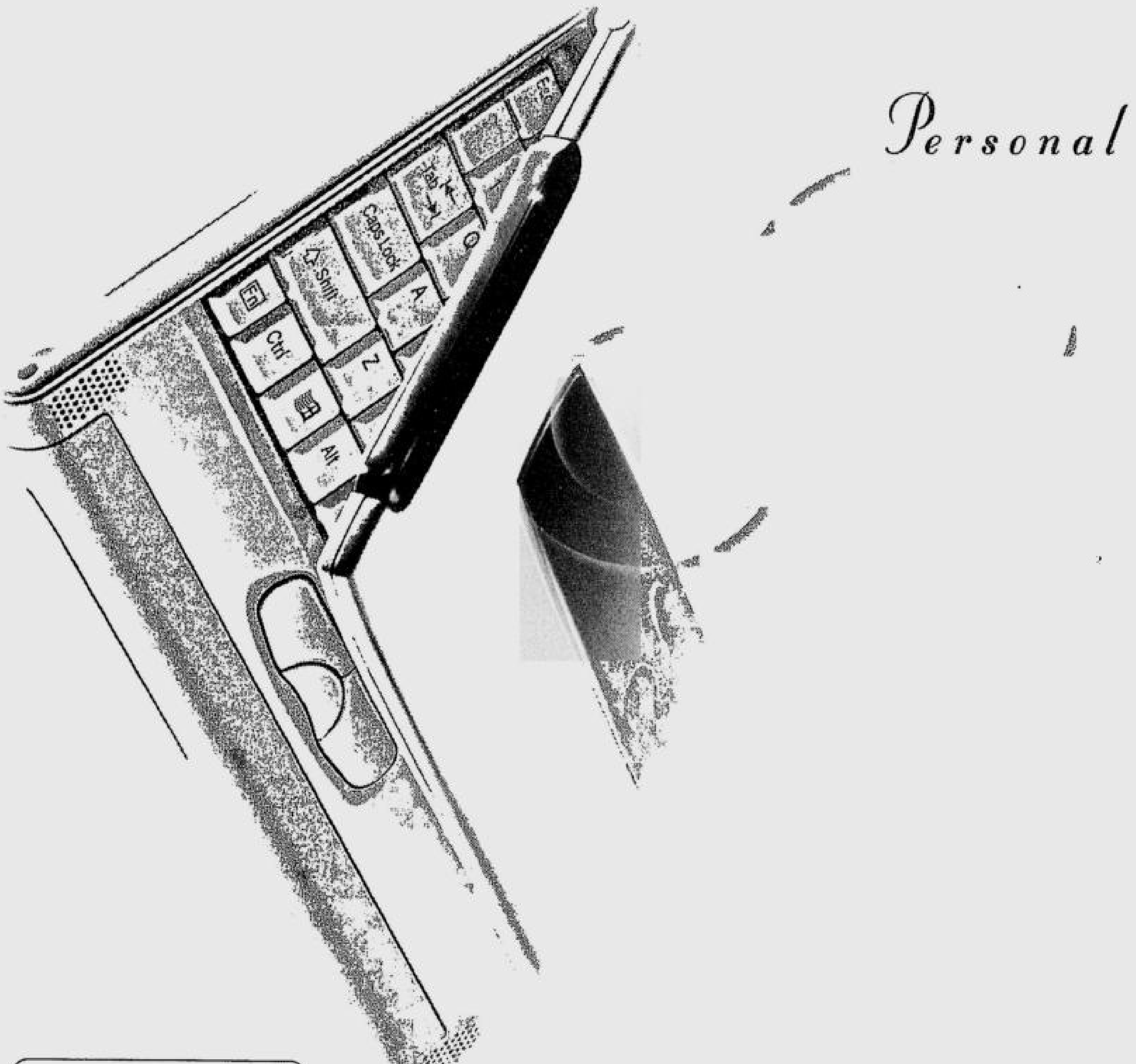

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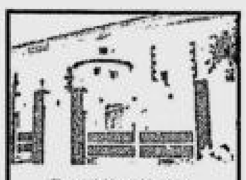

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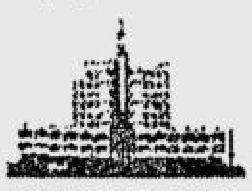

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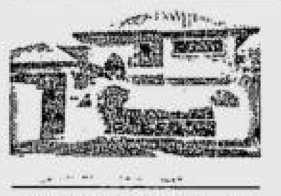

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By BONG BARRAMEDA

Making money

Q. What is paper money made of?

A. For obvious reasons, the exact ingredients remain a state secret. What we do know is that paper currency is printed on sturdy paper composed of cotton and linen, hard to tear and made to last. Tiny red and blue silk or nylon threads are scattered throughout the paper for extra strength, and to make it difficult to copy. The ink is also of a secret formula.

For the Record. In ancient Rome, as in most other places then, women paid the family bills and managed the money. If a wife had to pay seven different things, she divided the money into seven small bags, labeled for food, cloth, grain, or whatever else she had to buy. In the Latin language spoken in rome, the bag was called a *bulga*. Later, the French borrowed the idea of dividing up the money, only they called the bags *bougette*. The English, in turn, emulated the French, and eventually this system of allocating money for specific purposes was called a *budget*.

Past Forward. This day in 1947: Aviation history was made when the *Bell X-1* became the first aircraft to fly faster than sound. The rocket-powered craft, piloted by Major Charles "Chuck" Yeager of the US Air force, was taken to a height of 30,000 ft. under a B-29 Superfortress mother-plane. The test began at 70,000 ft., and the *X-1* achieved a maximum speed of Mach 1.05, held for several seconds. Once the test was completed, the craft glided to land at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

WORD WATCH

Mach (mak) : clipped form of *Mach number*, the ratio of the speed of an object to the speed of sound through the same medium; after Ernst Mach, an Austrian physicist who published a paper on airflow in 1887.

PDI -- October 14, 2002

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PHILIPPINE CARABAO CENTER
Department of Agriculture

October 9, 2002

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Re-bid

The Philippine Carabao Center, an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture, invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

15,000 doses of Prostaglandin

The date of the bidding and pre-bidding conference including approved agency estimates are detailed as follows:

Date of bidding	November 15, 2002, 10:00 a.m.
Place of Bidding	PCC Liaison Office, 5th Floor, DCIEC Building, NIA Compound, EDSA, Quezon City
A. Requirements on bidding date:	
Envelope 1	(Eligibility Envelope)
Envelope 2	(Technical Envelope)
Envelope 3	(Price Envelope)
Pre-bid conference	November 8, 2002; 10:00 a.m.
Last day of issuance of bidding documents	October 31, 2002
Agency Estimate	P 1,642,000.00

B. Eligibility Requirements:

B.1 Legal Documents
- Mayor's Permit/Municipal License (Current)
- DTI/SEC Registration (Current)
- BIR, TIN and VAT Registrations
- Statement that the firm is not blacklisted by any government office, agency or corporation

B.2 Technical Documents
- Track record of previous similar transaction/sales delivered and accepted
- Purchase Order related to the items to be procured. The previous sales or contract shall be at least 50% of the approved budget for the item to be bidded
- A valid Bureau of Foods and Drug registration of the product shall also be submitted.

B.3 Financial Documents
- Additional Financial Statement stamped "Received" by the BIR for the last two (2) calendar or fiscal years duly notarized. The working capital (current assets less current liabilities) of the two (2) audited Financial Statements shall be at least equal to the total amount of the approved agency estimate.

Sealed bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security equivalent to 2.5% of the total bid price in the form of cash or manager's/cashier's check from a bank or financial institution.

For further information, please call Engr. Eduardo Dalusong, Procurement Officer at Telephone Numbers (044) 4560-731 to 34.

All particulars relative to the Eligibility, Bid Bond, Pre-bid Conference, Evaluation and Award shall be governed by Executive Order No. 40, Series of 2001 and its implementing rules and regulations.

The Philippine Carabao Center reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or waive any defect or required formality therein and to award the contract to the bidder whose proposal is advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) LIBERTADO C. CRUZ
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Oct. 13 & 14, 2002)

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INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

Interested parties are invited to prequalify and bid for the selection of proponents for the short or long-term lease of the

University of the Philippines
Property at Barrio Cupang,
Muntinlupa City

The University of the Philippines invites proponents to bid for the lease of its property, consisting of three contiguous parcels of land with a total area of approximately 38,943sq. meters located at No. 5 Kilometer 20, East Service Road, South Luzon Expressway, Bo. Cupang, Muntinlupa City.

The said property is suitable for commercial/industrial development because of its strategic location. Inasmuch as the site is not a part of the academic or academic support zone of any campus of the University of the Philippines System, and thus is not suitable for academic use, there are no restrictions in continuing the utilization of the property for commercial and/or industrial purposes.

Prequalification forms and Terms of Reference (TOR) may be obtained from the UP System Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat. System Supply and Property Management Office, Administration Building, UP Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable P2,000 from **October 14-25, 2002**. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished prequalification documents will be on **October 31, 2002**. After the evaluation of the documents submitted, the prequalified developers shall be duly notified of the schedule of subsequent activities. For inquiries, please call Mr. Eduardo G. Sabat at telephone number 926-4919 or e-mail at egsabat@up.edu.ph.

(Sgd.) MARTIN V. GREGORIO
Vice President for Administration

(PDI--Oct. 14 & 21, 2002)

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John 14:6

Message of Thanks
The family of

FRANCIS "BOY" EALDAMA

who died in the grace of God
on 03 October 2002

wish to convey sincerest heartfelt gratitude to all those who condoled with the members of the family during their time of bereavement with Eucharistic Masses, novena prayers, flowers, visit, vigil, messages of sympathy and/or attended the funeral rites.

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Message of Thanks
We, the family of the late

CELESTINA ABAD RODRIGUEZ

who joined our Lord and Creator
on October 9, 2002

sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.

JULIO R. PATIÑO

Died on October 12, 2002
at the age of 86.

His body lies in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe. Cremation will be held on October 16, 2002 at 8 am.

His family requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

"In Christ all shall be made alive"
Corinthians 15:22

Ricardo P. Zamora

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 12, 2002
at the age of 63.

His loving wife Lourdes; children Maribeth, Mary Anne & Joseph; grandchildren Julian Ricardo & Antonn Luis; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Chapel I, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Internment will be announced later.

The Almighty God has you in His keeping;
we have you in our hearts ...

IN LOVING MEMORY
ON THE FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF

NORMA TOBIAS YOUNG

of STA. CRUZ, LAGUNA and QUEZON CITY
(August 5, 1925 – October 15, 2001)
Beloved wife of **Maj. Maximo P. Young (Ret.)**

HOLY MASSES WILL BE OFFERED TOMORROW, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2002 AT THE FOLLOWING CHURCHES:

Cathedral of the Virgin of Maulawin (Sta. Cruz, Laguna) ---------------------------------- 5:30 AM
Claret Seminary Chapel (Cenacle Drive, Sanville, Quezon City) ------------------------------ 6:00 AM
Church of the Transfiguration (18th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City) -------------------------------- 6:00 AM
The Parish Church of Sta. Quiteria (Sta. Quiteria, Caloocan City) -- 6:00 AM
Christ the King Church (Greenmeadows Avenue, Quezon City) -- 7:30 AM

Her children: **Wally** and **Dang**; **William** and **Terry**; **Winston** and **Rally**; **Wilson** and **Len**; **Wilbert** and **Amy**; **Wilma** and **Ronnie**; **Wandra** and **Dave**; **Warren** and **Judith**; her grandchildren, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to remember **NORMA** in their prayers.

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Jose "Joey" Carpena Medina Jr.

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who peacefully joined our Lord on October 4, 2002 at the age of 55.

His loving wife Natividad (Nanette), and his children Jose Raymundo III (Trigger) and Carlos Vincent (Carvin), request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Christ the King Church, Green Meadows, Quezon City. A burial mass will be celebrated at 9:00 am, Tuesday, October 15, 2002. Cremation follows at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

SEVERINO "Viring" C. DOMINGUEZ, SR.

devoted husband, loving father and faithful servant of God joined his Creator on October 8, 2002 at the age of 77.

His bereaved wife ***Corazon*** *and children* ***Bobby*** *and* ***Beng, Vi*** *and* ***Rose, Tina*** *and* ***Nelson, Annie*** *and* ***Boy, Rey*** *and* ***Rosa, Raffy*** *and* ***Jojie, Ruben*** *and* ***Mary Anne, Ricky*** *and* ***Maripi****, grandchildren, nephew, nieces and other relatives request friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.*

His remains will be flown in from Los Angeles, California on Wednesday, October 16, 2002 and will lie in state at the **Funeraria Samson** at 145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite.

Interment will be on **Saturday, October 19, 2002** at **Imus Municipal Cemetery** after the 1:00 p.m. Mass and blessing at the **Imus Cathedral.**

FR. ASTERIO KATIGBAK, S.J.

was called home to the Lord on Saturday, October 12, 2002.

Wake:	The body will be brought to Cebu on Monday, October 14 and waked in the Chapel of Sacred Heart School-Jesuit. A school Mass will be celebrated there at 8 A.M. on October 15. After the 8 A.M. Mass at Sacred Heart Parish on Wednesday, October 16, it will be returned to Manila for the wake at the Grade School Chapel, Ateneo de Manila University Campus, Loyola Heights, Q.C. Daily concelebrated Mass at 8:00 P.M.
Funeral Mass:	at 8 A.M. on Saturday, October 19 Church of the Gesù, Ateneo de Manila University
Interment:	Sacred Heart Novitiate Cemetery, Novaliches, Q.C., immediately after the Funeral Mass.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF HIS SOUL
(Instead of flowers, donations would be preferred for the Vocational Unit of Sacred Heart School-Jesuit)

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

OUR DEARLY BELOVED TATANG

MARCELINO F. ACCAMARAN

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace and Goodness of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on the 10th day of October 2002 at the age of 79.

He is survived by his wife **Miniang** and sons **Hubert, Rick, Zaldy, Clemen** and **Joseph**, daughters-in-law **Josie, Malou, Offie, Milet** and **Rhoda**, sister **Linda** and sister-in-law **Meding** and grandchildren. Our family, relatives and friends, will deeply miss his presence, but his loving memories will always remain in our hearts forever.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in Pagpandayan, Vigan Ilocos Sur.

Interment will be announced later.

"And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life."
Psalm 26

Our beloved

LEONIDA C. PALMA

has gone home to her Creator on October 12, 2002.

Her loving husband, **Jesus**; her children **Irene** and **Ruben Cruz, Marixie** and **Gico Alejo, Cecile** and **Bengoy Del Rosario**; her grandchildren **Kaycie, Gio, Chin-chin, Lia, Jake, Ruben II, Luigi**, and **Lorenzo** request for your prayers.

Her remains lie in state at the Chapel of the Guardian Angels of the Ateneo de Manila Grade School.

Interment will be on October 15, 2002 at the Paraiso Memorial Park, San Mateo, Rizal after the 1 pm mass.

In lieu of flowers, please send your donations to the *I Can Serve Foundation*.

BIENVENIDO B. MANUEL

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 13, 2002 at the age of 89.

His beloved wife, **Patria K. Manuel (†)**, children **Beng and Ed Fores, Minerva** and **Gene (†) Tanseco**; grandchildren, **Leo** and **Cherrie Fores, Miguel** and **Luci Fores**, and **Chat Fores**; greatgrandchild **Sabine**; in-laws and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Mount Carmel Shrine, Broadway, New Manila. Details of the interment will be announced later.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

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Linux now runs on Xbox console

By Erwin G. Oliva

THE QUEST to provide a version of the GNU/Linux for the Microsoft Xbox game console has finally come to fruition.

The Xbox Linux Project last week revealed the first full Linux distribution for the Xbox. The Xbox Linux version contains about 350 megabytes of data and is available for free at the website of the Xbox Linux project at http:// xbox-linux.sourceforge.net.

The project proponents said the distribution is similar to a standard installation of the three-CD version of the well-known Mandrake Linux distribution released recently.

The Xbox Linux Mandrake 9, however, can be used in a "modded" or modified Xbox. A modded Xbox is one which contains a modification chip soldered into the Xbox motherboard. The mod chip enables the Xbox to run other applications aside from just playing DVD games and movies. Modified Xboxes can also play pirated games. One also needs to have a USB keyboard and a mouse connected to the Xbox via the USB adaptor.

Project proponents said that this is an important milestone for the project, as they aim to give Xbox users the freedom to do anything with the console they have paid for, instead of being restricted to gaming.

The Xbox consists of powerful PC-based hardware, runs a stripped-down version of the Windows 2000 kernel and, for anti-piracy reasons, allows only games to run. With Xbox Linux Mandrake, Microsoft's gaming console becomes just as powerful as any comparable PC installed with Mandrake Linux 9. Moreover, the Xbox—which already comes with a Pentium 3 processor, nVidia graphics card and 10 gigabytes of disk space—costs $199. This is far less the price of a similarly configured PC. With Xbox Linux Mandrake, the machine could now be used for office applications, the Internet, e-mail, Linux games, or even as a Web, file or database server.

"Mandrake Linux was chosen as the base for our distribution for various, mostly technical, reasons. We have no affiliation with MandrakeSoft, the creators of Mandrake Linux," the project proponents said.

The Xbox Linux Mandrake contains graphical environments Gnome and KDE, as well as software packages such as OpenOffice.org, XMMS and Mozilla.

Since Xbox Linux Mandrake 9 is compatible with Mandrake Linux 9, all additional packages from the official Mandrake Linux 9 installation CDs or the Mandrake website can be installed into Xbox Mandrake Linux, the project proponents said.

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Despite economic crunch, IT firms still investing in RP

IT investments worth $1 billion are expected to come soon

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MORE companies are expected to invest in the country's special economic zones, a majority of which will be information technology-based companies, Philippine Economic Zone Authority director general Lilia de Lima said recently.

According to De Lima, while the rest of the Asian region—including the Philippines—continues to face economic difficulties, foreign companies' interest in the Philippines has not waned, and that more investments, to the tune of $1 billion, are expected to come in early 2003.

"Despite the slow growth of our exports, and the decrease in manpower count of some export companies, we are expecting more investors in the field of information technology to come in the Philippines," De Lima said, speaking at the inauguration of a new multimillion-dollar R&D facility in Cebu.

De Lima's predictions are in sync with a report released by the Department of Trade and Industry, indicating the country's position as a prime site for IT companies.

Trade Secretary and Peza Board Chair Manuel Roxas II recently disclosed that the country has been identified as an important offshore destination of foreign companies specifically in these companies' "backroom operations."

Citing a report from global research firm The Gartner Group conducted in March 2002, Roxas said in a statement that "the Philippines is an important offshore player as it is now in a position to generate revenues of approximately $1 billion a year of exported IT service from its current pool of at least 290,000 IT-skilled Filipino professionals."

Roxas said the review yielded two reports, namely: the offshore outsourcing opportunities in the Philippines and an in-depth assessment of the Philippines for offshore IT-enabled services.

The report provides an assessment of the competitiveness of the country's IT and IT-enabled services industry in the global marketplace, Roxas said.

The study likewise outlines constraints and hindrances faced by the industry, and courses of action to address the constraints are also given to specific key stakeholders.

According to Roxas, a number of Gartner's commentaries validated and confirmed the Philippine government and the private sector's findings on the country's inherent competitive advantages and important initiatives for the IT sector.

The Gartner report focused on the analysis of the Philippine market's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats including the conduct of actual site visits to at least 28 IT companies and in-depth discussions with local key IT practitioners.

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Digital . . .

From page B21

or have someone do it for you. In the case of the MP3 players, you can store anywhere from one to two hours of MP3 music, depending on the model (either the PSA 64 which comes with 64Mb of memory, or the PSA 128 which has 128Mb). The high-end PSA 128 version can run for up to 10 hours with just one triple A battery. Music can be uploaded via USB, and the players come with the MusicMatch 7.0 audio manager.

But the problem with MP3 music is piracy. Unless you've been wearing rose-colored glasses all your life, you should know that MP3 copies or those downloaded from the Internet are not used as mere backup copies of originals. Most of them are pirated copies. How then would Philips react if they found out that their products are being used as vehicles for piracy?

When I asked this question to Alan Sparks, Philips senior vice president for Asia Pacific, Middle East and Africa, it seemed to have pinched a nerve.

"We do not support piracy. Point blank. We actively work against it," said Sparks. "If we destroy the original content business, we would have no media and players to sell."

True. Philips or any other manufacturer can produce MP3 players whichever way they want. However, these players can be used as a medium to make piracy proliferate. Should the responsibility of the manufacturer end at producing, marketing and selling the product? Philips, who invented the compact disc, actively works with the music industry associations to battle piracy. Still, any MP3 product from any manufacturer can be used in ways that are not sanctioned by the industry or the manufacturer. As a matter of fact, when I asked one of the people at the Philips demo where I can get music for loading or burning into 8-cm CDs, that Philips person actually told me that I can get it anywhere in Greenhills. Again, unless you've been wearing rose-colored glasses all your life, you'd know that Greenhills is Metro Manila's mecca for pirated products.

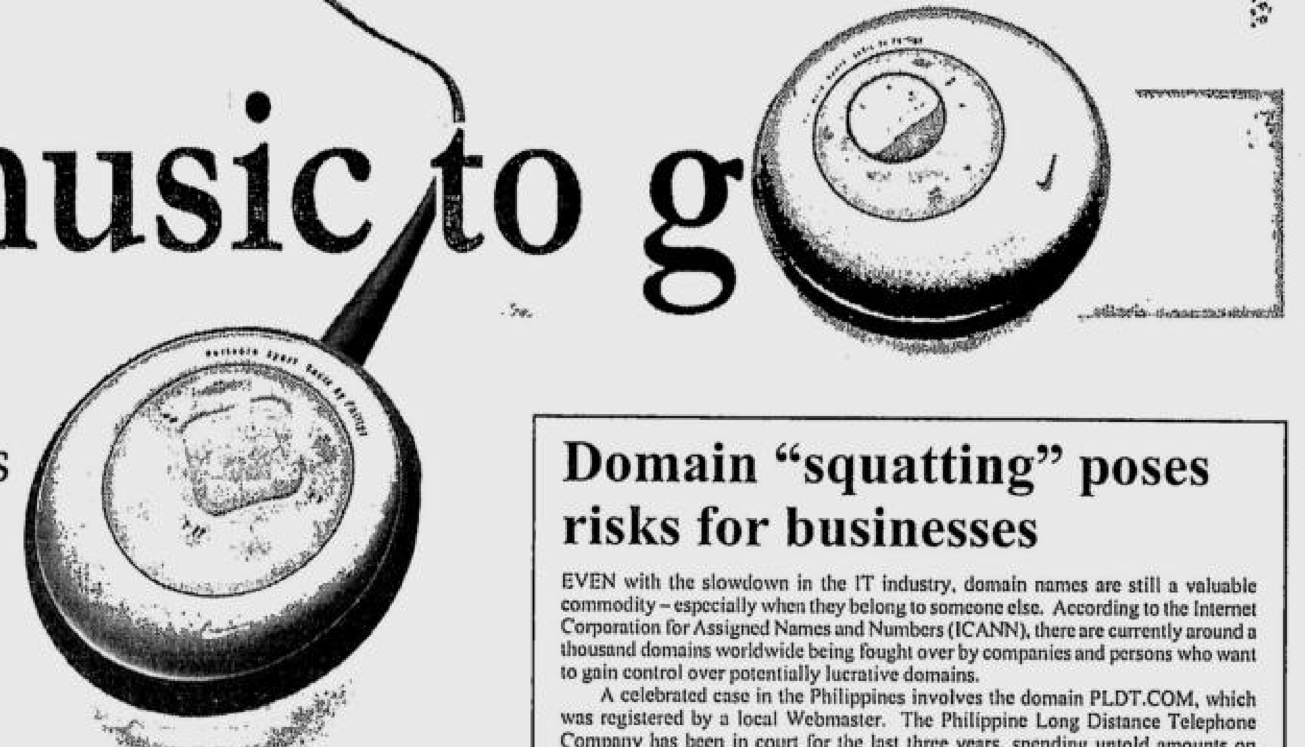
Piracy aside, how do you get those music into the PSA MP3 players? A USB port is tucked away inside the player, safe under a rubber cover at the back so it won't be obtrusive and no moisture can reach it. You'll notice that the PSA line has little or no openings, making it hard for sweat or dirt to creep in. This is also the reason why Philips chose not to place any removable media ports into the players such as compact flash or even Sony's memory stick (which is not surprising since Sony is a competitor). The PSA line has a solid construction with in-built memory so you won't have to open any ports to add more music.

Some users, however, may find 128Mb or two hours of MP3 music lacking in terms of variety and capacity. The Apple iPod MP3 player, for example, can hold anywhere from 5Gb of data in the enrty level version all the way up to 20Gb. That's no less than a thousand songs in one small package.

But beyond the specs and figures, the PSA partnership between Philips and Nike represents a bold step for both parties. Nike and Philips have introduced portable audio products separately before, but joining forces gives them advantages in terms of research, design, manufacturing and marketing. Philips is a recognized technology leader, but lacks appeal in the youth and trendy market. On the other hand, Nike is a "cool" brand but is not recognized as a technology company. Since the PSA project is all about the effect of music on sports and training, going to bed together certainly made a lot of sense.

In the end, it all boils down to two things: Nike's swoosh and Philips' technology push.

Digital music to go



Philips creates a new category of wearable consumer electronics in partnership with Nike

By Leo Magno

ONE of them says "Let's Make Things Better." The other says "Just Do It." The resulting progeny of the marriage between Philips and Nike is a new generation of athletic electronic devices co-branded by the two industry giants.

Last year, Nike and Philips announced an agreement to develop and market a co-branded line of wearable consumer electronics and technology products. This created a new category for both companies as global firms continue to tap new markets in the face of shrinking profits and struggling economies. A year after Philips and Nike went to bed with each other, their first offspring appeared in the form of the PSA (portable sport audio) line. These include audio products such as MP3 and CD players, FM radios and headphones specifically designed to be worn during sports activities.

The electronic players are rounded, streamlined, miniaturized and designed to meld with an athlete's apparel. The PSA line of digital audio devices can be attached to the wrist, arm or waist via Velcro straps, while magnetic clips prevent headphone cables from flopping around while running. The audio players are encased in steel and rubber and are shock- and sweat-resistant. Intuitive controls and big buttons allow for blind operation.

Let's skip the PSA/FM product since it's just an ergonomic radio. But let's not skip the PSA MP3 and CD players which don't skip. MP3 players, being able to store music which is purely digital in form, by nature does not skip. But those who drive off-road with a CD popped in-dash know that CDs are bound to skip. Although CD music is digital, the mechanical nature of the CD reader and player make it skip. When you're running with a CD player in hand or tied to your waist, the same thing is bound to happen. How did Nike and Philips make the PSA CD players skip-free? The player buffers the music for 45 seconds, making the music play continuously even when the CD skips. Think of it as streaming video on the Internet. It buffers video to the memory so that you won't have to look at a choppy video feed (at least ideally it should be that way).

The PSA MP3-CDs come in the traditional 12-cm version or the smaller 8-cm CD version. The 12-cm CDs are your usual audio CDs or those which contain MP3 music. The 8-cm CDs are not commercially available, meaning you will have to burn your own music into the smaller-format CDs

DIGITAL/ B20

Domain "squatting" poses risks for businesses

EVEN with the slowdown in the IT industry, domain names are still a valuable commodity – especially when they belong to someone else. According to the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), there are currently around a thousand domains worldwide being fought over by companies and persons who want to gain control over potentially lucrative domains.

A celebrated case in the Philippines involves the domain PLDT.COM, which was registered by a local Webmaster. The Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company has been in court for the last three years, spending untold amounts on litigation trying to get the rights to the domain – with no end in sight.

Other famous cases include well-known actor Kevin Spacey and musician Bruce Springsteen, whose domains (kevinspacey.com and brucespringteen.com) were registered by a well-known "cybersquatter." In separate decisions that on the surface seem to defy common sense, both Spacey and Springsteen were unable to regain control of their names. There are cheaper alternatives to litigation, but even arbitration costs can reach thousands of dollars and go on for months. Arbitration decisions can be contested in court if either party doesn't agree with the decision, adding legal expenses and valuable time lost.

An ounce of prevention

The bottom line is that large sums of money are being spent trying to recover domains that cost a fraction of that to register in the first place. A domain can cost a little as P5.00 a day (around $70 for a 2-year registration).

"Registering your name or trademark as a domain is a good way of protecting against unauthorized use," says Emil Avanceña of DotPH, the Official Domain Registry of the Philippines. "Getting a domain costs a lot less than litigation and can be done in minutes."

It can also make sense for a business to register several variations of its business name and point them all to one website. Visitors to a website can get lost or redirected to another site if they are unsure what the domain is – or if they misspell the domain when typing it into their browser.

A US businessman registered the domain microsof.com (without a "t") in hopes of getting more visitors to his website. Microsoft Corporation had to resort to arbitration to gain control over the domain and ensure that those who wanted to reach their website could actually do so.

There are infinite variations of any name, so there is a point of diminishing returns. But business that have invested money and hard work into building their name will probably find it worth their while to spend a fraction of that and get several variations of their name.

It's not all about money

Undoubtedly the worst scenario for a business is to lose their domain to a competitor – who then points it to their own website. But not all disputes are cases where someone is holding on to a domain in the hopes of cashing in. Some domain names are being used for websites that contain disapproving remarks about a particular company or trademark, or serve as a forum for voicing grievances about someone's services or products. Although these sites are non-commercial in nature, this is little consolation for the person or company whose name is being used in such a manner – and it can actually be harder to get back a domain name that is being used this way. '(L)egitimate noncommercial or fair use of the domain name, without intent for commercial gain to misleadingly divert consumers…' is taken into account when arbitration panels and courts rule on who has rights to a particular domain name.

"It really comes down to the value that you place on your name," says Avanceña. "Like anything else, if you have nothing invested in it then you have nothing to lose. But if you feel your name is worth protecting, then you should probably look into registering it as a domain."

DotPH even has a program that rewards those who help inform people about the benefits of getting a domain. The Refer-A-Friend program gives Affiliates $10 for each successful domain referral and is a great way to earn extra income.

You can register domains and learn more about the Refer-A-Friend program by visiting the DotPH website at http://www.dot.ph

ADVT'L.

Property slump attractive to contact center locators

THE CURRENT slump in the property sector has become an attractive incentive for contact center firms to establish their operations in the Philippines.

A study by FPDSavills, an international property management and consultancy firm, revealed that falling rental rates combined with the presence of advanced buildings will provide a period of opportunity for the growth of the contact center business in the country over the next 12 to 18 months.

At present, about 25 contact centers are operating in the country, located in existing and developing urban centers in Metro Manila and Central and Southern Luzon provinces. The highest concentration of contact center operators is in the Makati and Ortigas commercial business districts (CBDs).

The FPDSavills study conducted also said that the supply side factors in the office sector will remain critical while demand is forecast to remain weak.

The flat corporate demand for office space will continue to exert downward pressure on prices and rental fees while the supply imbalance will be accentuated by the completion of commercial projects in existing and emerging urban developments particularly in the information technology or IT parks which will keep values low in the main business districts, FPDSavills said.

The FPDSavills study added that this scenario is likely to create a favorable environment for IT-enabled services and outsourcing firms to establish facilities in the country, as rental values are expected to continue their decline.

The boom in IT infrastructure demand has encouraged developers to build various IT parks such as Eastwood City in Quezon City, E Square in Fort Bonifacio and Northgate Cyberzone in Alabang.

Aside from these purpose-built developments, companies have also settled in Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza)-authorized IT buildings such as PBCom Tower and RCBC Plaza in Makati City and various locations in Ortigas Center in Pasig City.

Others have settled in Peza-registered private and public economic zones such as Clark Field in Pampanga and various industrial parks in the Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Quezon) area. The present supply glut has reduced rental rates and sales levels in these development areas.

"An abundance of supply coupled with depressed demand presents a golden opportunity to prospective tenants, as increased competition among landlords, not just in the major CBDs but also in non-traditional urban areas, is expected to heighten," the study said.

The study revealed that contact center costs vary, but costs can be classified as comparable to standard offices, or between $392 and $510 per sq m.

The FPDSavills paper noted that the emergence of new urban centers with comprehensive residential, retail and commercial support facilities, as well as development of IT-friendly buildings (inside and outside the traditional business districts), also represent new opportunities for the outsourcing industry in the Philippines.

Thus, the presence of nearby residential developments is an important factor for companies setting up contact centers. In Eastwood Cyber City, for example, high-end residential condominiums can be found nearby such as Eastwood Lafayette, Olympic Heights and One Orchard Road.

Contact Federation Philippines estimates that in 2000, the Philippine call center industry was valued at $49 million, and is projected to grow to $170 million in 2005.

This figure shows a hefty increase in revenues arising from the shift to outsourcing in the region.

Quadmedia News Agency

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By Jerry Liao

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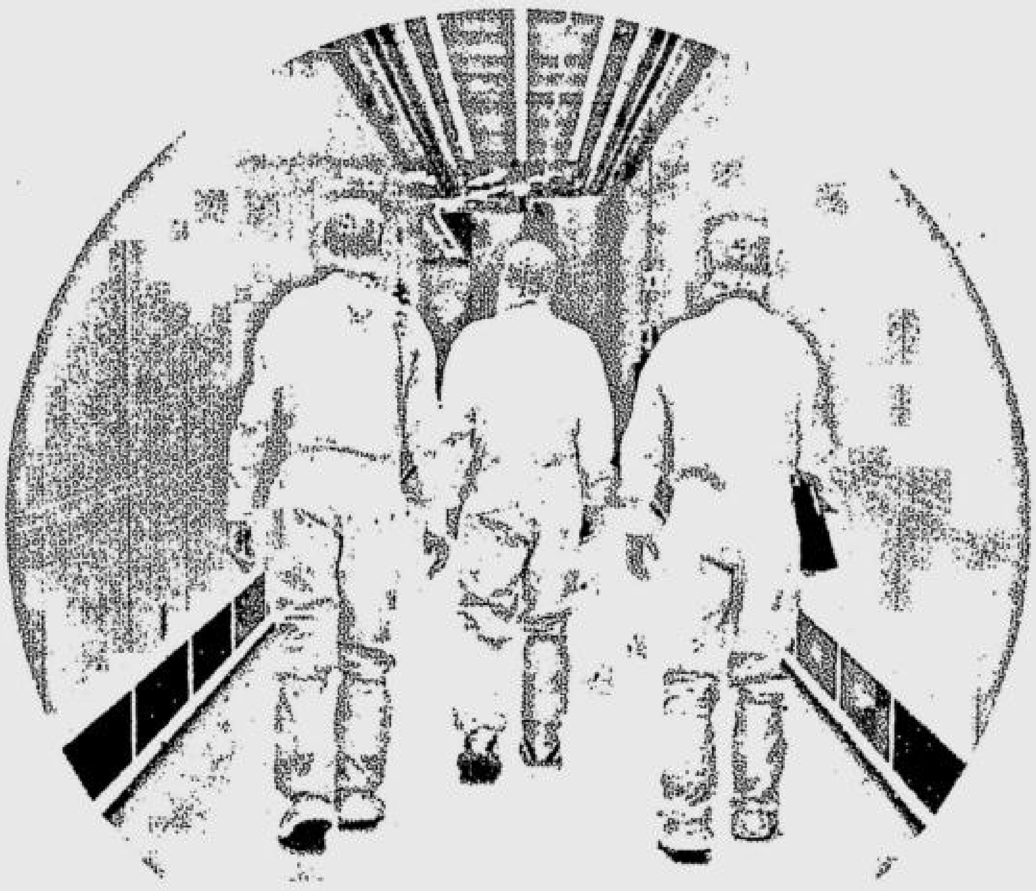

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TRANSSHIPMENT OPERATIONS

Clark: Perfect place for regional hub

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE AMIABLE Hedinori Aritake, country manager of United Parcel Service (UPS), could not help but gush about how perfect the former American airbase is in Clark Field, Pampanga, as a transshipment hub in Asia.

"We looked at every country in the region and Clark was no doubt the perfect place to build our regional hub," he says.

It's the only place in Asia that is four hours away from every major point and that is crucial in a transshipment hub operation. No wonder the Americans chose to build an airbase in this area and use this as its regional base during the World War," says Aritake, a Japanese.

ARITAKE

Clark is 1.5 flight hours away from Hongkong; two hours from Taiwan; and four hours from Singapore, Japan, China and South Korea.

UPS planes usually fly out of their hubs in major cities in Asia between 10 p.m. and 12 midnight and arrive in Clark at 2 a.m. Filipino workers in Clark have only two hours to sift through cargo before the planes go back to their port of origin in time for the start of delivery at 6 a.m. to 8 a.m.

"Our only problem in Clark is the reliability of power supply because we can't afford a breakdown specially when the plans start coming in. But Clark Development Corp. has assured us that they would address this concern," Aritake says.

CDC had recently borrowed P250 million from the Philippine Veterans Bank to renovate and strengthen the pavement of the Diosdado Macapagal international Airport's taxiways and parking.

This is to accommodate UPS' wide-bodied commercial aircraft which have heavier payloads of up to 1.2 million pounds compared to military aircraft that the airport was designed for.

$300 million

UPS invested $300 million, mostly in wide-bodied aircraft, to establish its Asian transshipment hub in Clark this year and it prepared to spend another $300 million to expand its capacity depending on traffic growth in the region.

The fresh capital infusion will likely be spent in buying more aircraft to increase flight frequency in Clark. "It's a foregone conclusion that we would expand our operations in Clark. The only question is when."

UPS had considered Hong Kong, Taiwan and China among its prospective sites for a transshipment hub, Clark's strategic position and government's open skies policy for cargo swayed the world's largest transport services company to choose the Philippines.

Aritake says UPS could have established its hub in Clark in the early 1990s but the Mount Pinatubo eruption, which covered Clark and the rest of Pampanga with thick ash fall, forced them to shelve their plans.

But when it decided to pursue the project, UPS opted for the longest possible lease term. "We signed a 25-year lease contract renewable for another 25 years but we wanted an even longer period," Aritake says.

He says even its rival Federal Express would inevitably move out of Subic and relocate to Clark. "They would suffer if they stay in Subic longer because of the limited area for expansion."

Doubling volume

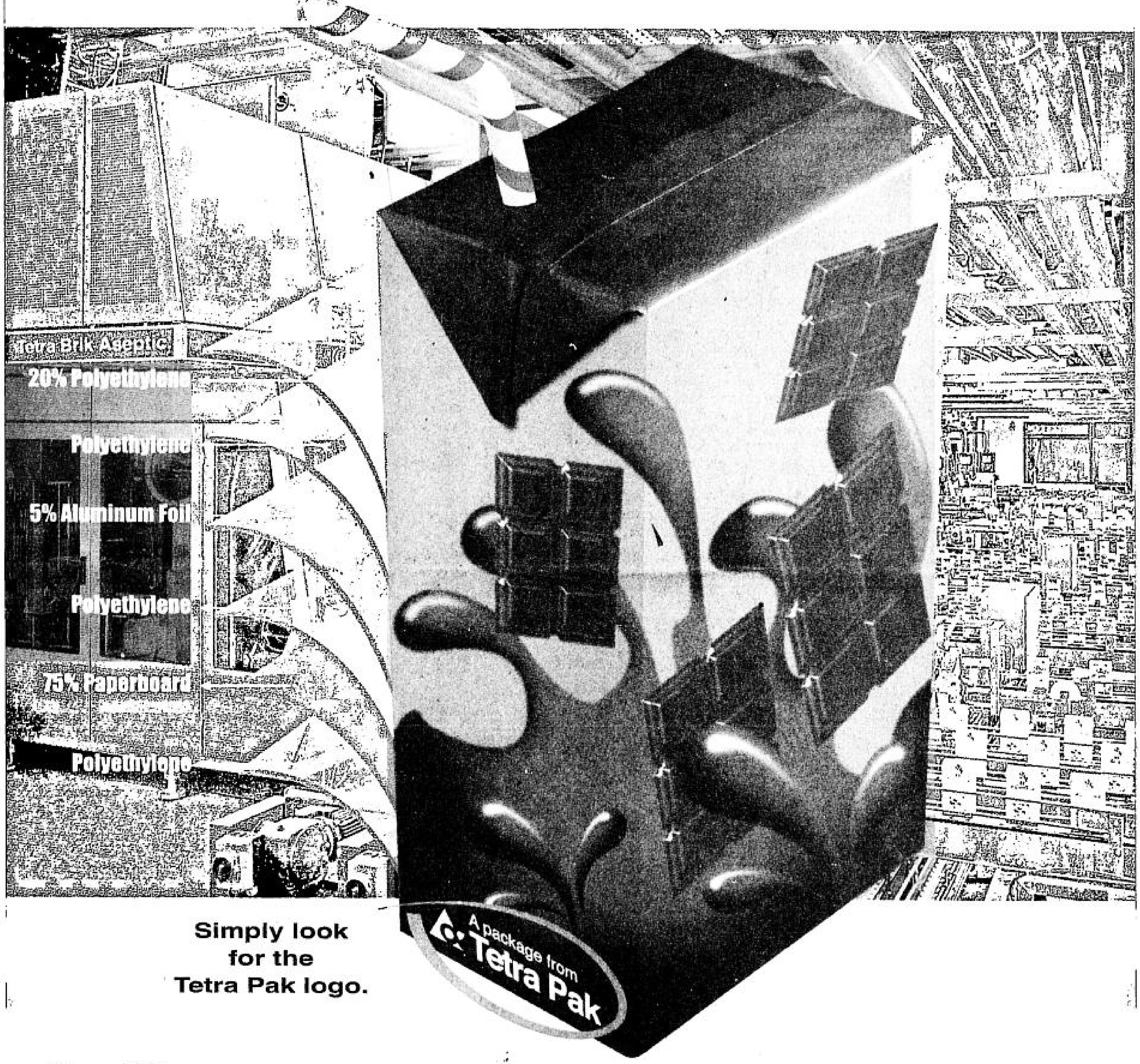
He notes that unlike Clark, with its vast flatlands, Subic has very limited land for expansion because it was surrounded by a jungle. "Clearly, Clark is the place to be because it was intended to be airport while Subic is primarily sea port."

Clark is UPS' third regional transshipment hub in the world after Louisville, Kentucky (100 flights a day) and Cologne, Germany (30 flights a day). UPS currently makes seven flights out of Clark every day.

Aritake says UPS was confident of doubling its current volume within the next few years with the continued recovery in Asia's major economies.

Aritake also explains the difference in purpose between a transshipment hub and gateway to explain the significance of its operations in Clark.

"All deliveries within Asia pass through Clark much like all deliveries within the US pass through Louisville and all deliveries in Europe pass through Cologne. Cargo that is shipped from North America, Asia, and Europe go directly to gateways in the region. There could be several gateways in a region but there can only be one transshipment hub."



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BAYER Philippines and Luntiang Pilipinas, recently chose 13 college students for its 2002 Bayer Young Environmental Envoys. Based on Personal Action Plans submitted, five were chosen by a panel of judges to go to Germany to observe environmental practices in developed countries. From left: Marlo Mendoza, Manuel Gerochi, Shenna Marangit, Jennifer Orbeso, Sunshine Sy , Bonar Laureto, Ivan Pumaren, Tony Lopez, Dorothy Claro, and Lito Villanueva.

Trends and revolutionary ideas in urban development

(First of three parts)

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Felino A. Palafox Jr.

AS we shape our cities so do our cities shape us. Our responses to the built environment reflect how we perceive our immediate surrounding, as well as our roles as its caretakers. Indeed, from the environment we live in, there are signposts identifying our cultural identity, including those historical facts, those "colonial baggages" to which our cities have been subjected.

These "colonial baggages" have brought about problems in urban growth. For instance, the town plaza concept of the 16th century Laws of the Indies, which was applied to all colonies of Spain like the Philippines and Latin America. The urban design revolves around a town plaza where the church and the municipio (municipal building) are situated. Around the plaza are the houses of the principalias and the ilustrados (the elite in the community), and those living far away from de baja de las campanas. Such an urban structure indicates the concentration of jobs, trade and commerce within the easy commuting distance for only a small number of people.

Unusual conditions

Today, unfortunately, after more than four centuries, the situation has not changed. There is the concentration of jobs and commercial activities at the Makati Central Business District (CBD) and the Ortigas Center—the modern-day town plazas—where these are surrounded by low-density villages. Nowhere else in the more progressive cities in the world would you see single-detached single family large homes close to Nathan Road, Hong Kong; Orchard Road, Singapore; Ginza in Tokyo or Fifth Avenue, New York or in the inner cities of Madrid, London and Paris. You only have this situation in the Makati CBD and Ortigas Center in Metro Manila, where very low density residential neighborhoods in large single-family-single-detached house surround the business districts while office workers live two to three hours away from their places of work.

Past surveys have revealed that the Makati CBD has a daytime population 11 times the nighttime population. So the problem is bringing in this 11 times population in the morning and bringing them out of Makati in the evening.

In contrast to European cities or former British colonies like Hong Kong, Singapore, Boston, Sydney, their town squares were surrounded by higher density townhouses, apartments and shop houses so that there were people living within walking distance to the town centers. Large single family homes or mansions were located in the suburbs.

This urban planning problem was further reinforced with the introduction of the cars by the Americans in the 1950s. Urban planning was very much car-oriented. The rigid zoning during the time segregated the place of work from the place of residence similar to Los Angeles of the '50s and '60s in the United States. This type of planning is widespread in many post-war cities where land uses are segregated through zoning of commercial activities from the residential ones and the mode of transportation is biased to the use of cars. It was understandable during that time because cars were cheap and so was fuel.

But after the oil crisis in the 1970s, the proponents of the rigid zoning realized the inefficiencies of long hours of traveling to and from places of work. Spaniards and North Americans do not use this zoning system today. They are now integrating places of work to places of residence like the traditional European cities. Since this country cannot go back in history to correct its past, government, urban planners, developers, land use decision makers, nonetheless, must do their part in updating the cities' urban structure and architecture to cope with the infrastructure needs of the future. However, the bad news is, we still use the outdated planning development practices of rigid zoning or segregating land uses and income classes still find their way into the country's zoning laws, building codes, deed restrictions and subdivision regulations.

Rapid urbanization

The rapid urbanization of Metro Manila shows it is headed toward becoming a "megacity"—defined by a population in excess of 10 million. It is the 18th largest metropolitan area in the world, and one of the largest in the Asia-Pacific region. Population density is over 13,400 persons per square kilometer, almost 60 times the national average. The density of the metropolis is due to the natural increase of the resident population worsened by in-migration from other regions of the country.

The emergence of the blighted areas and slums, with all the attendant problems of crime, drugs, violence and environmental degradation, is the natural consequence of an overly dense population. The land use trend in Metropolitan Manila has largely been a response to socioeconomic demands of a growing population and not necessarily, according to plan.

Rethinking and recreating

The problems of rapid urbanization and the inappropriate planning and development influences from our colonial past have created major development problems that need to be addressed. An illustrative example of these is seen in the city of Makati today. Makati is a city of imbalance. This imbalance in Makati is seen in the daytime and nighttime population, housing and jobs and land values of the business district and the surrounding residential communities. These are traced, partly, to the spatial organization introduced during the Spanish period, and post-World War II. To move this volume of people in and out of the city every day puts tremendous pressure on the city's road and public transport network. The physical separation of place of work and place of residence for many of Makati's workers, thus, has resulted in reduced effective income, less productive time for actual work, and the additional aggravation attendant to traffic and long commuting time. Also, since the resources for development are centered on the CBD, and consequently, the CBD's land value per square meter is many times that of the surrounding areas of Makati, there is the contrast between the new office buildings in Makati and the dilapidated housing and the informal settlers in the areas outside the CBD.

Need for better connectivity

Connectivity goes beyond the physical, beyond the distribution systems—roads, mass transit, and communications. Connectivity refers to the integration of the activities that define the character of the city, including its social, economic and cultural links. For an effective and progressive city, good connections are crucial. We should find development strategies that solve the paradox of the compact city—how we can live and work as closely as possible to each other, without causing problems to this overburdened city. Closeness is not a matter of distance but of good connections. At present, there is much room for improvement in the connectivity in our cities and towns.

Improving connectivity is achieved by putting together the various functions of living, working, shopping and recreation. One way of doing this is to infuse new activity to the areas outside the city core or by creating new development corridors between these outlying areas and the core. Along the new corridors, shops, markets, offices and parks can be encouraged. Blending these various functions together through urban planning and policy should make the city a more progressive and desirable place, as long as environmental quality and urban design are not sacrificed.

Concentrating these functions of living, furthermore, will also allow public transport to be more cost-effective.

The impact of spatially reuniting these various functions can transcend the physical if the objectives of socioeconomic integration are infused into the holistic approach to development. Combining the various functions of living, working, shopping and recreation results in a better integration of social class into the mainstream. By becoming part of the mainstream, the different sectors of the community are empowered and can share the fruits of the city's progress.

Global trends, revolutionary ideas

As the country marches well into the 21st century, more and more people are talking about going global. Globalization has changed the benchmarks for progress, good urban planning and architecture. We now look to the world's pacesetters in terms of city development and management, urban design and architecture.

In this modern world of telecommunications, the internet, and global trade, we need to draw lessons from the experience of other cities in the world.

One of the most important principles that are universally accepted is the principle of environmental quality and sustainable development. We have to ensure that a development is not just good for the present generation, but should sustain and enhance the resources and the environment for future generations.

How do we do this? As mush as possible, we have to optimize the use of depleting resources such as water, trees, plants, animals, land, etc.

For cities to become sustainable, the residents must create their own control systems and so-called "early warning device," continually monitoring their impact on the environment. In other words, development should be energy-efficient. We should utilize appropriate building technology and designs that are responsive to our tropical climate as well as minimize pollutive activities. An optimal balance between exploitation, conservation and development is essential.

Moreover, while the total resource base of the world continues to shrink, and the commuting distance between place of residence to place of work is cut short, we need to recognize the relationship between urban development and rural development as a continuum, one entity flowing into another, and not as dichotomy, so that the management of resources in both developments is optimized.

(The author is the principal architect and founder Palafox Associates. Feedback at <mapsec@globenet.com.ph>)

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STIMULATING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

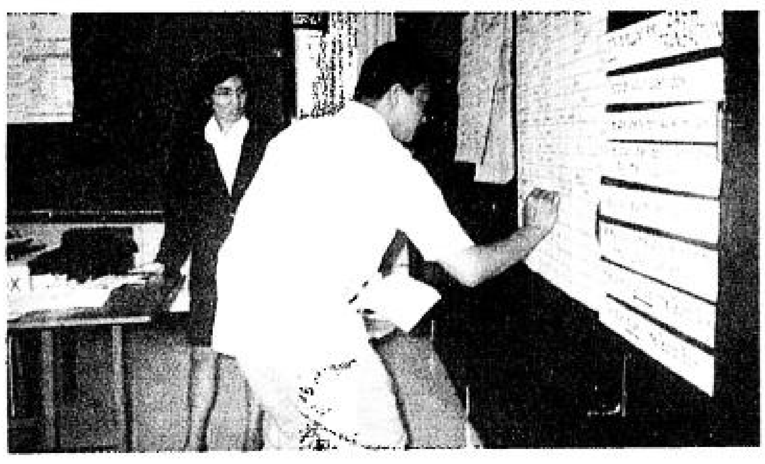
Service center rises for budding 'entrepinoys'

By Rhodora G. Hizon
Contributor

IT IS often perceived that when one is into business, he is already an entrepreneur. And that entrepreneurship starts and ends with starting a business venture.

This is a misconception of many entrepreneurs.

According to Shirley Alcoriza, author of the book 'Experience Centered Entrepreneurship' "what makes an entrepreneur is his basic decision to become one, and that, to be an entrepreneur one has to ensure that his idea is put into action, regardless of the sacrifices necessary from his end. An entrepreneur who starts a business but is unable to manage it for growth and change is not an entrepreneur."



AT THE Entrepinoy's basics training, the entrepreneur experiences actual computations on product pricing and other numeric problems to enhance his business management skills.

The Center for Small Entrepreneurs (CSE), wants to stimulate and promote entrepreneurship and therefore, supports the development and improvement of the basic management skills of the entrepreneurs engaged in growth-oriented micro, cottage, and small enterprises. The center also wants to assists the enterprising poor to sustain and grow their businesses.

The center was founded in October 1996 and was registered as a non-government organization in Jan. 22,1997. The center's main thrust is the development and empowerment of the vulnerable and yet enterprising poor, who can adequately develop themselves if given the opportunity, training and proper resources.

It is envisioned that CSE would become an entrepreneurial center with services and programs for the micro and small entrepreneurs, a service center for growing and pro-active entrepreneurs.

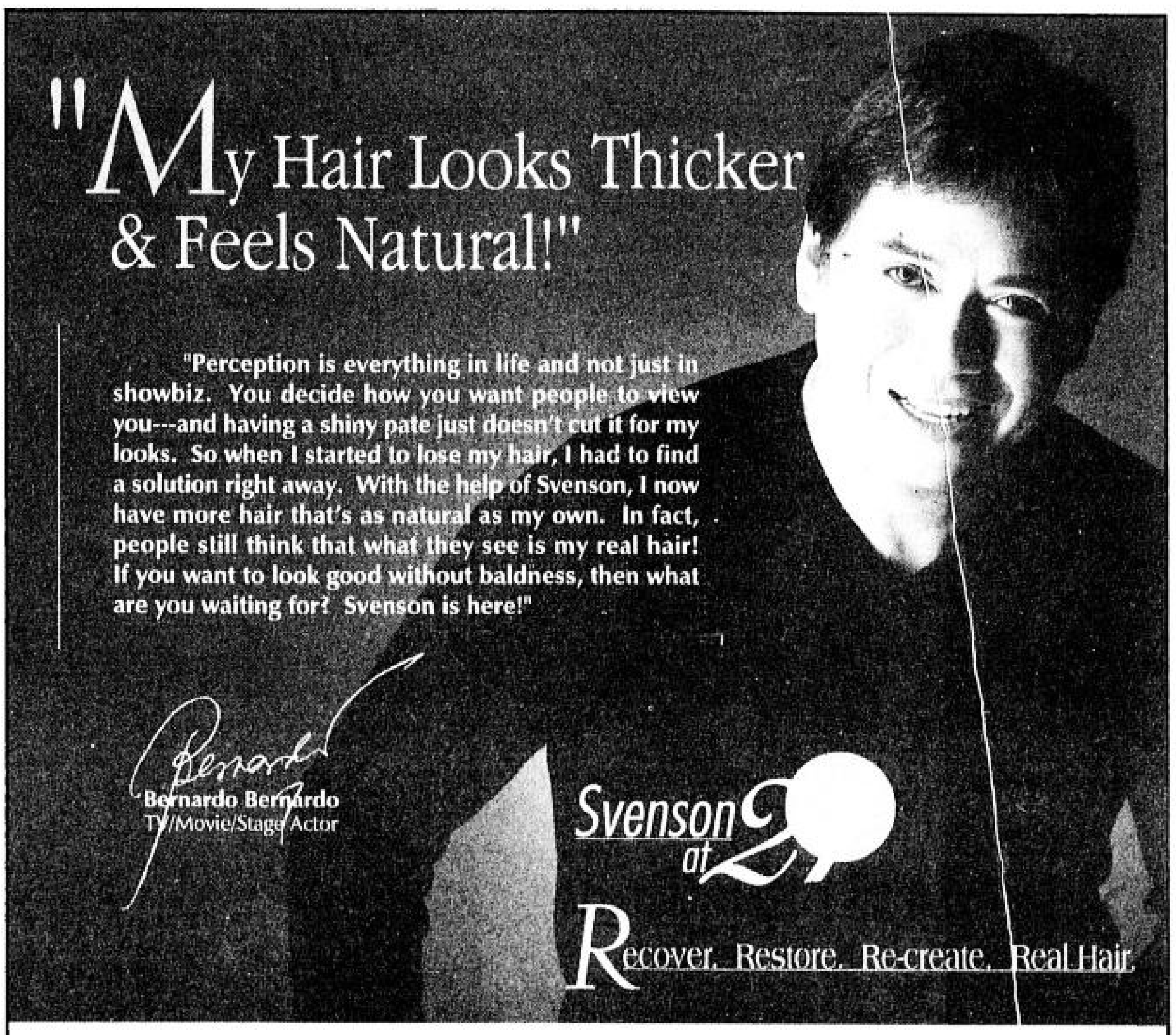
With the Center's Business training/workshop service, the entrepreneurs are provided with trainings to improve their management capabilities in running their businesses which would improve the operations and productivity of the business. The modules of the training/workshop includes: business planning, recordkeeping, costing, stock control, marketing and purchasing.

At the end of the training course, the entrepreneurs are expected to improve the operations of their businesses with the acquired skills imparted to them. This is complemented by the monthly visits done to their businesses by the Business Development Officers to help and assist them in applying the theories they have learned from the workshop.

Individual coachings are also done on site to sustain the transfer of knowledge from the training room to actual business operations. The measure of success of the trainings being given to them would be seen if they apply the management principles to their specific enterprises and after which maintain its use even after any counseling and coachings are undertaken.

The other services include the supervised credit program which provides the entrepreneurs an alternative source of credit, other than the moneylenders and loan sharks which are readily available in the community but are charging them with too high interest for any loan granted them. This service is open to small manufacturing, trading and service oriented enterprises.

(CSE will celebrate its sixth anniversary on Oct. 16 at the Senden Hall, Asian Social Institute, Leon Guinto corner Escoda Street, Malate. For details, call 525-6268)



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Japanese brewer stirs sake renaissance

TOKYO—For many of Japan's work-worn salarymen, throwing back a glass of sake at a bar is a quick and cheap way to relieve the day's stress while swapping moans about the office.

Now one sake brewer is transforming one of Japan's most enduring—and mostly male—institutions into a more sophisticated affair, in so doing encouraging women to discover how sake can be as interesting, refined and varied as wine.

"Too many people have tried bad sake and decided they don't like it, or have come to associate it with a really coarse image," said Matsutaro Fukumitsu, president of Fukumitsuya Sake Breweries.

"I want more people to know what good sake tastes like and change the image that it's just a man's drink." Based in the northern Japanese town of Kanazawa, Fukumitsuya has been brewing sake from fermented rice since 1625. With shipments of about 3.6 million liters a year, it ranks as Japan's 35th biggest producer of the drink.

But for Fukumitsu, who followed his ancestors into the trade, guarding tradition and quality was not enough.

He opened a drinking place in Tokyo's swanky Ginza district three years ago, smoothing the rough edges off the traditional sake bar and fitting it out with the kind of minimalist decor more often seen in the capital's upmarket bars and cafés.

"We needed a place to present our sake and communicate directly with our consumers," Fukumitsu said.

Besides the bar, the two-story building houses a gift shop and a Japanese restaurant where eaters are educated on how to match food with sake.

Customers at the bar can taste a wide range of Fukumitsuya's chilled sake which comes served in delicate, finger-sized glasses or crystal flutes meant to complement each type.

Japan's sake industry could certainly do with a new image after seeing consumption fall steadily in recent decades.

Industry sources estimate that consumption has dropped by more than 20 percent in the past 10 years alone.

Fashionable neighbors

With neighbors like luxury jeweler Van Cleef & Arpels and silk-to-leather merchant Hermes, Fukumitsu says Ginza is the ideal area to gauge what women—the driving force behind any new trend in Japan—think and to correct their prejudices about sake.

The bar is also becoming a favorite for businessmen, some of whom might initially be put off by the modern interior design but are reassured by the price list.

A glass of sake can cost as little as 300 yen ($2.44) while the cheapest beer in the same street will be about twice as much.

Annual sales have risen by roughly 20 percent in each of the past two years.

To lure first-timers, Fukumitsuya offers sake that is sweeter and lower in alcohol than its standard products. Some are even carbonated and contain only about 6 percent alcohol compared to the 17.9 percent in its top range sake named Mizuho. *Reuters*

Forum on retrenchment set

THE MANAGEMENT Association of the Philippines (MAP) management development/corporate governance/ICT/youth committee will be sponsoring a forum on "Retrenchment, Restructuring, and Outsourcing" on Nov. 13, 2002, from 12 noon to 3 p.m. at the Kalayaan Sunset Lounge, 24th Floor, Export Bank Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue.

As the global economic crisis continues to linger, it may call for management executives to make tough decisions for the future or simply for survival. In fact, it may mean executing the kind of decisions that they did not have any previous experiences on, such as downsizing their company. The objective of the forum is to showcase the practices of various companies in their downsizing initiatives.

To ensure that the participating MAP members and guests will bring home a comprehensive understanding of retrenchment, restructuring and outsourcing, the committee has arranged a line-up of distinguished speakers from the government and private sectors, including an HR/outplacement consultant as well as an excellent representation of a cross-section of Philippine industries. The participants will learn about the compassion of these companies in making the transition for the retrenched employees as easy as possible.

Forum manager Franco del Rosario, chair of Sharexchange Brokers Inc., stressed that "The forum is an intellectually stimulating and nurturing event that management executives should not miss. This is a no-nonsense forum, packed with vital information applicable to businesses from real experiences by real companies and real people."

The speakers will include, among others, Carlos C. Ejercito, president and COO, United Laboratories Inc.; Arthur N. Aguilar, COO, Victorias Milling Corp.; Mario R. Gatus, president, Drake Beam Morin (DBM); Cesar B. Lamberte, VP for human resources, Philippine Airlines; and Hans Leo J. Cacdac, director, Bureau of Labor Relations, Department of Labor Employment.

For inquiries, please call the MAP secretariat at 751-1152 or 751-1149.

Local fashion retailers join Asean Trade Fair

FREDERICK Peralta, Jaylord Padilla, Randy Ortiz, Vittorio Barba, Tonichi Nocom, Josie Gonzales, Mike Madayag, Chato Liwanag and Marissa Rarang.

LEADERS in the Philippine fashion retail industry are set to showcase the best of local fashion in the Asean Trade Fair 2002 (ATF 2002), to be held at the Impact Exhibition Center in Bangkok, Thailand, from Oct. 14 to 20, 2002.

The Philippine National Pavilion at the ATF 2002 puts the spotlight on top Philippine fashion brands such as Bench, Bayo, Island Souvenirs, Jag Philippines, Kamiseta, Penshoppe, Plains and Prints, and Sari-Sari.

Products of these top brands will be on display along with the creative designs by members of the Fashion Design Council of the Philippines (FDCP), which include Rajo Laurel, Frederick Peralta, Joji Lloren, Randy Ortiz, Vic Barba, Dong Omaga-Diaz, Tonichi Nocom, Nono Palmos, Dennis Lustico, Patrice Ramos Diaz, Larry Espinosa, and Arnel Papa.

With the theme "Millions of Opportunities at the Asean Trade Fair 2002," the fair will showcase the business and investment potential in Southeast Asia, as the region is set to tap the full strength of regional economic integration.

Each Asean member country is to feature their best products at the fair, representing their countries' images in international trade and investment in their exhibit pavilions. Combining extensive trade exhibitions with discussions on trade and industrial cooperation, ATF 2002 anticipates welcoming at least 10,000 trade visitors and up to 100,000 members of the general public.

The country's participation at the ATF 2002 is spearheaded by the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem). In a recent press briefing, Citem project manager Mike Madayag shared the country's planned exhibit for the event.

"The Philippines has chosen the theme Lifestyle of Modern Fashion and Furniture," says Madayag. "We feel that by showcasing the local fashion industry in the ATF, the Philippines has the unique opportunity to introduce local brands in the largely untapped yet lucrative Asean market," he says.

The Philippine National Pavilion will focus on Philippine creativity hand-in-hand with manufacturing capabilities through an integrated presentation revolving around the fashion lifestyle concept. Allied industries, such as design and accessories, will also participate at the fair to package the country as a one-stop shop for sourcing internationally competitive fashion products and materials.

"Most people don't know that major global fashion brands like Donna Karan, Lacoste and Ralph Lauren rely on the Philippines for their products, a testimony to the capabilities of manufacturers and designers," relates Madayag. "Through the fair, we are now showing entirely Filipino fashions: We want to put a face to Philippine fashion design."

San Miguel Corp. is the Philippine corporate sponsor for the ATF 2002. Other sponsors are the National Federation of Sugarcane Planters Inc. and the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce.

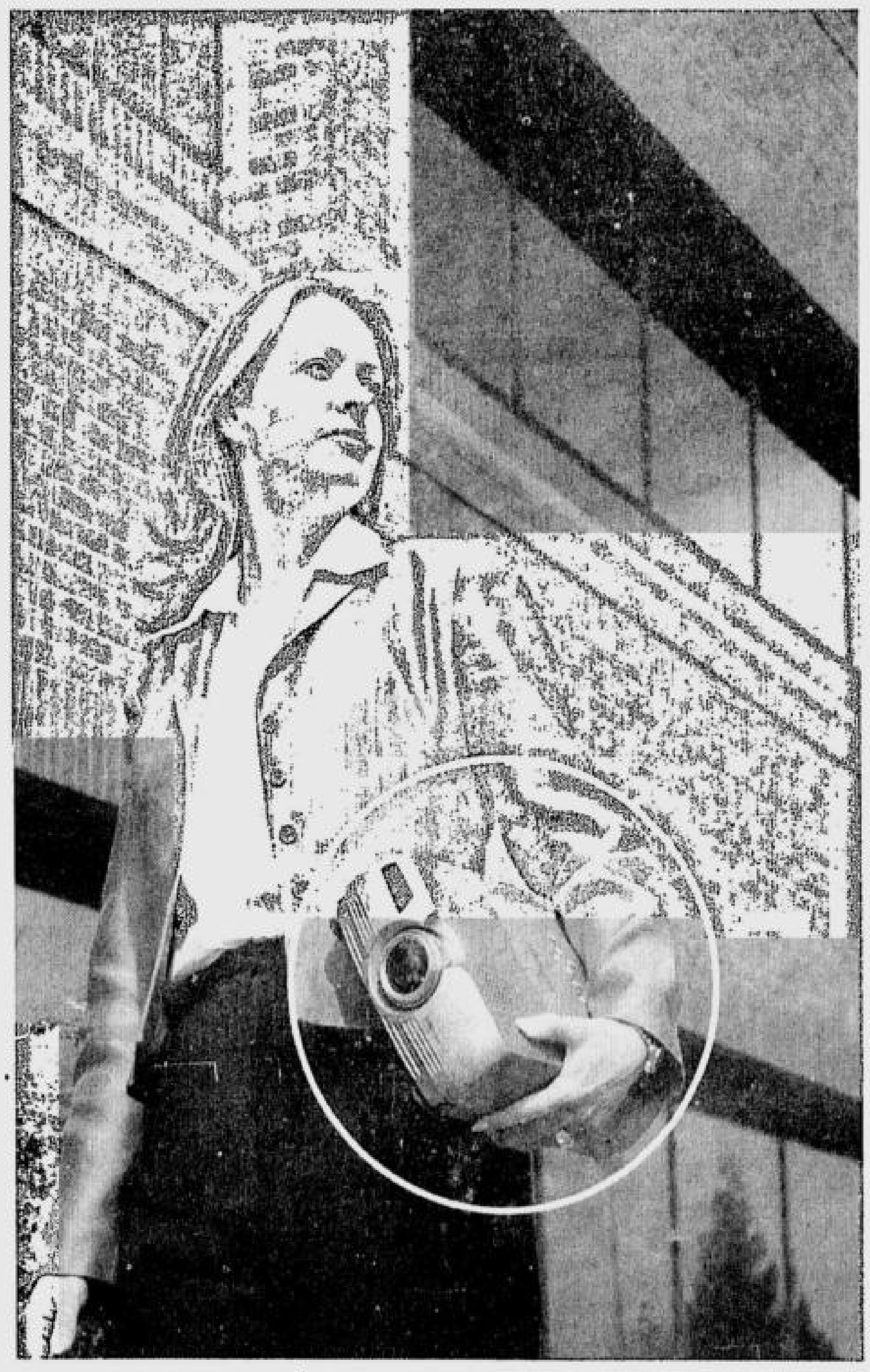
The institutional participants include the Confederation of Garment Exporters of the Philippines, Textile Mills Association of the Philippines Inc., Garments and Textile Export Board, and the Department of Tourism, while donors include Diamond Star Agro-Products Inc., Harman Foods Phils. Inc., Liwayway Marketing Corp., Mallari Distillery, Toscano Soriano Trading, RFM Corporation, and Union Square Enterprises.

Other Asean countries are also putting a spotlight on their most important products. Cambodia and Laos are highlighting their unspoiled cultural attractions and traditional lifestyles, while Singapore and Malaysia are promoting modernity and expertise in the business area. Thailand is focusing on its strength as "The Kitchen of the World," while Vietnam and Brunei are taking a multi-theme approach to showcase the diversity of their attractions.

This year's trade fair is also called Asean+3, as China, Korea, and Taiwan will also participate in the event.

Since its establishment in 1967, Asean has become one of the most influential regional associations in the world, leading Southeast Asia's emergence as a global exporter and a center of innovation and best practice. But only in the last five years—with the addition of Laos and Myanmar in 1997 and Cambodia in 1999—has it brought all 10 Southeast Asian countries to the table.

The ATF 2002 is the first trade fair in which all 10 Asean member countries will participate. The fair not only provides the road to regional integration, it is also a launching pad for a new era of Asean trade, since aside from the exhibits, a business forum featuring trade ministers from selected Asean countries as speakers will also be held.



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Home improvement store ties up with big US-based cooperative

ROBINSONS Retail Group's Handyman recently forged an alliance with one of the United States' biggest home improvement cooperatives, Do it Best Corp., to form the local chain of Handyman's Do it Best stores.

The collaboration is meant to address rising consumer demand for a wider array of home improvement products at the best prices. These include electrical supplies, plumbing equipment, home decor, gardening tools, car accessories and gadgets, kitchen and bedroom accessories, small appliances, pet care products and more.

The tie-up was launched during the opening of the first Handyman's Do it Best store in Robinsons Starmills in San Fernando, Pampanga, last August. This was followed by the inauguration of the second branch last Sept. 26 at Robinsons Metro East along Marcos Highway in Cainta, Rizal.

The $2.5-billion Indiana-based Do it Best Corp. cooperative gives Handyman access to over 68,000 products at very affordable prices.

"We have 4,300 stores in 42 countries that buy collectively so vendors give us prices that are much lower than what an individual store usually gets. This gives our member-stores such as Handyman a great advantage over their competitors. We also have 8,000 private label brand products which are exclusive to our members," says Do it Best international market development specialist Paul W. Roehling.

The American executive visited the country recently for the inauguration of Handyman's Do it Best Metro East's 2,000-sq.m. store.

Roehling added that their objective is not only to gain acceptance in the Philippines, but in the whole of the Asian region as well. "We are pleased to say that the market has been very receptive to our concept. It is partly due to the emerging middle class in Asian countries.

Do it Best Corp. has stepped up expansion efforts by collaborating with reputable corporations like Handyman. "When we went to expand into a certain country, we always look for good market coverage. Handyman's 31-strong network of branches offers that," Roehling explained.

He also said that Do it Best recognized a viable market here due to the Philippines' long history of ties with the US and the familiarity of and ease with which Filipinos use American goods.

The idea of collaborating with Do it Best started three years ago when Handyman president Willy Co attended the National Hardware Show in Chicago and met Do it Best director of international sales Tome Barfell.

"Do it Best was then considering two other companies so the tie-up didn't materialize right away," Co explained. Handyman's reputation, executive staff and great human resources gave them the advantage. "Handyman's operations are quite impressive," Roehling said.

Best
GRAND OPENING DAY
SALE
Sept 27 - Oct. 30

HANDYMAN president Willy Co (right) with Do It Best's Paul Roehling.

Handyman's Do it Best benefits from Do it Best's expertise in the home improvement industry. Aside from giving access to thousands of products, Do it Best helps train store personnel. "We train them in the areas of merchandising, executive retail management and customer service, among others. We make available over 70 training tapes that cover topics as simple as personal appearance to more complex issues like violence in the workplace. We also assist them in advertising," Roehling said. They even brought in Robert Plank, store development design, who designed the Starmills and Metro East stores.

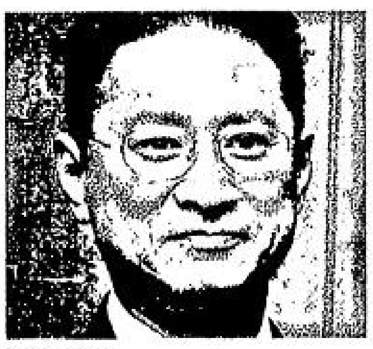
Both Handyman and Do it Best are bullish on the local market. "More and more Filipinos are getting to be like handymen in their own way. That is why the do-it-yourself concept is fast becoming popular," explained Co.

"Nowadays, going to home improvement centers and hardwares is not just the domain of the male population. Women are also actively taking part in this regard." Co said.

Do it Best was established in 1945 as Hardware Wholesalers Inc. It was founded by Arnold Gerberding who grouped various retailers so they could purchase at lower prices. Today, the retail cooperative group is one of the world's largest. Handyman is one of the country's largest home improvement chains with 31 branches nationwide.

MOVEMENTS

Honda names new president


TAKANO

HONDA Cars Philippines Inc. recently announced the appointment of Mitsunari Takano as its new president and general manager effective Oct. 1.

Takano's ties with Honda spans for more than two decades, working with Asian countries for almost a decade.

His former post was director and general manager for sales and distribution of Honda Malaysia Sdn. Bhd., a joint venture company which he set up in Selangor.

His predecessor, Mr. Otaka, believes that, "his profound knowledge of Asia will help further vitalize HCPI's operations."

Kraft Foods has new GM

SANTIAGO

KRAFT Foods International Southeast Asia vice president and area director Bienvenido (Pet) S. Bautista announced recently the appointment of Jeraldo F. Santiago as president and general manager of Kraft Foods Philippines. Prior to his appointment, Santiago was general manager of Kraft Foods Indonesia and was based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Santiago first joined Kraft Foods in 1999 as sales director of Kraft Foods Philippines, where he led and managed the business unit's new sales organization. During his stint, he was responsible for achieving Kraft's major sales goals and targets including the successful integration of its exclusive retail distributor's sales force into the company.

In 2001, Santiago was appointed general manager of Kraft Foods Indonesia where he oversaw the successful integration and expansion of Nabisco Indonesia business into the country business unit after Kraft Foods acquired Nabisco, a major US Food conglomerate, in December 2000.

In his new role as head of the Philippine business unit of Kraft Foods, Santiago will be responsible in further growing the US food giant's business in the country where it plans to introduce key food brands, maintain its leadership position in the market and expand further its role as a major player in the food and beverage industry.

Blue Cross announces new CEO

MEDCALF

BLUE Cross Group of Companies proudly announces the appointment of its new chief executive officer, Anthony J. Medcalf.

An expert in sales operation and investment management, Medcalf has contributed in strengthening and developing the Blue Cross sales force and other customer-support departments in the past two years that he has served as executive vice president.

"We are confident that Mr. Medcalf is highly qualified to lead and manage Blue Cross into becoming the leading provider for medical, travel and healthcare services in the Philippines," states Stuart McCarthy, chair of the board.

Medcalf says of his recent promotion," It is an honor and a privilege to be given this opportunity to lead Blue Cross Insurance and Blue Cross Health Care."

He further adds, "Under my leadership, I intend to work toward continuously providing excellent products and services that Filipinos deserve because we consider our clients, our customers for life."

Blue Cross Insurance Inc. and Blue Cross Health Care Inc. are the leading providers of medical insurance, travel insurance and total healthcare management in the Philipines. *(For more information, please call 899-8001 or visit www.bluecross.com.ph.)*

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Be one of 5 winners of a P100,000 *Shoe Shopping Spree.*

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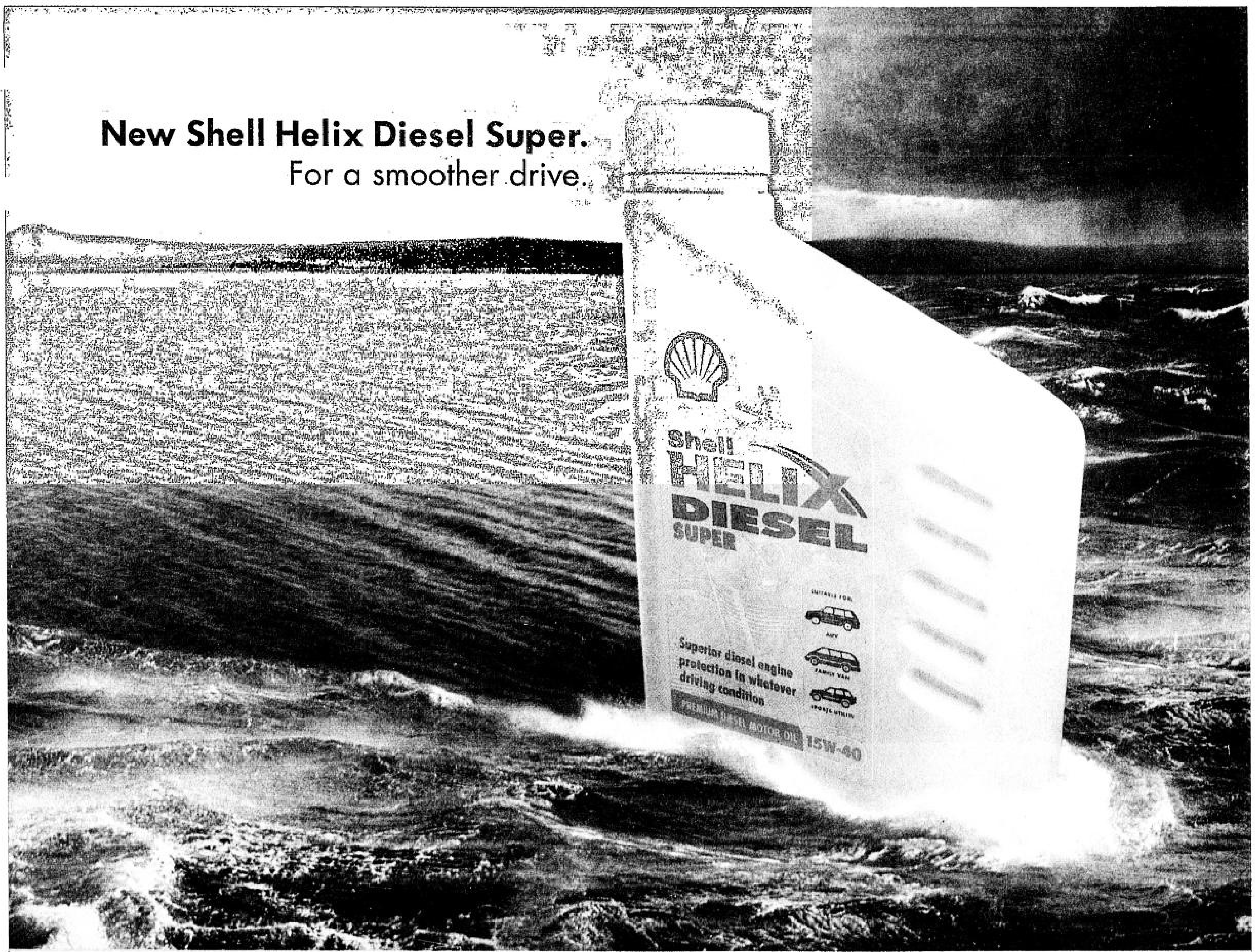
After giving the Philippines the first international credit card exclusively for women, the world's local bank gives you the most fantastic shopping experience in town. Start using your RED MasterCard now! Raffle draw is on 15 November 2002. See flyers for details or call 878-7878.

Per DTI-NCR No. 3686 Series of 2002

HSBC
The world's local bank

Issued by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited



Specially made for diesel-powered vehicles, it has Vibralite additives that lessen engine vibrations. And because it's Shell Helix, you can be sure that your engine is protected. Bawas ang vibrations! Ramdam mo ang smoothness ng biyahe!

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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Seipi learning program takes off

THE SEMICONDUCTOR and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Inc. (Seipi) is preparing itself on the global challenges and changes it is facing right now. It has begun implementation of its technical and behavioral learning modules for its more than 300,000 strong workforce.

Seipi's learning programs focus on seven functional and priority areas in high-technology business namely manufacturing and engineering, environment and occupational safety and health, finance and accounting, information technology, personnel administration, purchasing management, and import/export traffic management.

Seipi executive director Ernie Santiago reported that the learning program is in line with Seipi's mission of making the Philippine semiconductor and electronics industry globally competitive by providing high-level education and training for its workers and giving them the opportunity to become the best in their fields. Each worker in the industry is given a minimum of 40 hours of training every year. In essence, the industry allots around 12 million hours per year for training their employees.

Seipi's goal is to implement more than 100 training modules schedules up to next year. These training modules were determined by an industry-wide Training Needs Analysis, conducted early this year by the industry's managers and supervisors.

Santiago mentioned that "Seipi intends to make the Philippines a regional center for excellence and a choice location for foreign and local companies who will design, assemble and sell semiconductors and electronics products globally."

He said that "developing and improving the installed capacities and capabilities of the people employed by the industry would make a difference in our efforts of making the Philippines a competitive environment for electronics business."

Seipi has prepared a competitive landscape study for the development of the Philippine electronics industry, which will be presented to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, government officials and general public during the Seipi CEO forum scheduled on Oct. 22 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. The roadmap is expected to outline the ways and means that could further sustain the development of the industry and boost the economic growth of the country.

PANA EXHIBIT AT SHANGRI-LA MALL

The Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana), in cooperation with Shangri-La Plaza Corp., mounted an exhibit in celebration of the Advertisers Month and Pana's 44th Anniversary at the Shangri-La Mall. The exhibit featured the top 44 advertisers, award-winning advertisements and others. Shown during the ribbon-cutting ceremony, from left, are Pana board secretary Susie Achacoso-Cruz of Godiva Inc., AdBoard chair Susan L. Dimacali of McCann Erickson Philippines, Pana president Gigi B. Rodriguez of Citibank NA, KBP chair Cerge Remonde of RPN-9, Pana treasurer Raul S. Alvarez of PLDT, Pana director Fortunato D. Babasa of The Andresons Group Inc. and Pana executive director Dr. Nonie S. Azarcon.

SEC DIRECTOR CUTS RIBBON

Lawyer Emilio B. Aquino, director for non-traditional securities and instruments department of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), was guest of honor and speaker at the recent opening of Berkley International Plans' Family First sales office in SM City North Edsa. The company's fifth branch, FFI North Edsa is seen to introduce and bring to Metro Manilans in the north the benefits of saving for the future. Lawyer Juan Miguel M. Vazquez, president of the Federation of Pre-Need Companies, also graced the inauguration. Shown at the ribbon-cutting ceremony are, from left, corporate communications director Gina dela Vega-Cruz, Aquino, FFI general manager-EVP Robb Paulsen and Berkley president Felipe R. Diego.

My Home Magazine features garden special

LUSH gardens, landscaping trends and outdoor accessories are featured in the latest issue of Earth+Style My Home magazine, now on its second year of publication.

Highlighted are magnificent green scenes form the homes of Ricky Baylosis, Aida Marshall, Tess Pardo, Luis Baltazar, Atong Manzano, Martin and Maricris Castro and Philip Adamson. In a special "Rhythm of the Isles" section, Davao's famous Pearl Farm resort (owned by Rep. Tonyboy Floreindo and former beauty queen wife Margie Moran) is showcased. Architect Arlen de Guzman's breathtaking beachfront vacation home and JP and Boy-sie Lomotan's arts-y condominium are also featured.

To complete the relaxing theme of the magazine, creative tea set-ups by fascinating personalities like Rachy Cuna, Margarita Fores, Becky Garcia, Mario Katigbak, Tina Maristela-Ocampo, Edith Oliveros, Joe Salazar and Lizzie Zobel are showcased.

Published by Earth+Style Corp., the lifestyle property developer, in cooperation with Mega Magazine and Publications Inc. (MMPI), Earth+Style My Home continues to make beautiful Filipino lifestyles happen. Earth+Style My Home is available bi-monthly in newsstands, bookstores and specialty shops nationwide for P125.

enQ Launch
CON NCE
Philippines

ACM CHANGES TO BENQ

Digital lifestyle device manufacturer BenQ, former Acer Communications and Multimedia (ACM), announced recently during the brand launch press conference that all of its products will be marketed under the BenQ brand through global distribution and sales channels. BenQ empowers its consumers with products ranging from LCD and CRT monitors, projectors, plasma display, CD-ROM Drive, DVD-ROM Drive, CD-RW Drive, scanner, multifunction peripheral, digital cameras, mobile phones, wireless modules, Bluetooth PCMCIA Card, wireless local area network (LAN) Ethernet Switch, XDSL and even broadband router. Shown, from left, are Rick Hsiao, managing director for BenQ (Southeast Asia) Pte. Ltd., Rick Lei, vice president and general manager for global sales operation, BenQ Corp. and YS Hong, president, BenQ Asia Pacific Inc., presenting to members of the press its portable DVD player and LCD monitor during its brand launch at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

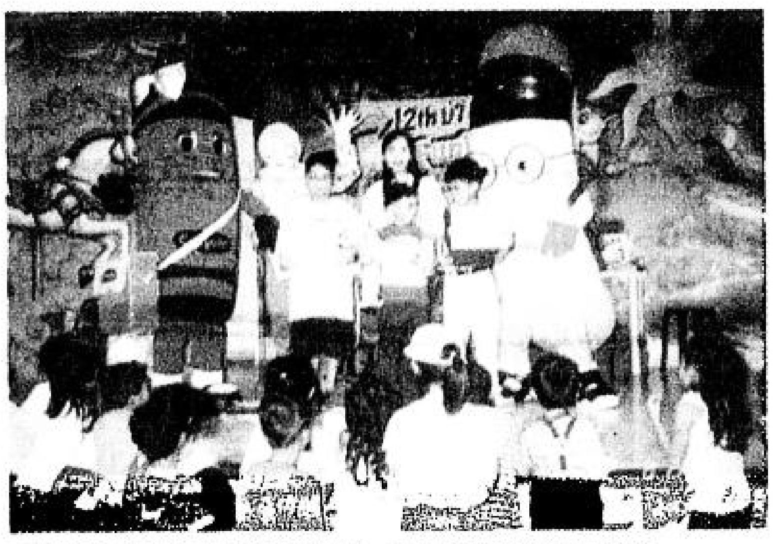
CELEBRATING 'BUWAN NG WIKA'

The Mona Lisa School of Pasig City recently celebrated 'Buwan ng Wika.' The event was headed by Mona Lisa U. Acosta and Hilario Tamor Jr., school director and administrator, respectively, (seated, front row). Also shown are the faculty and staff of the school.

BITS Clips

ISM's website

INTERNATIONAL School Manila recently moved to its new campus at the University Parkway, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila. Coinciding with the transfer is the launch of its website www.ismanila.com. The website will take you on tour inside ISM. Take a peek at the curriculum, history, state-of-the-art facilities, and people of the 82-year-old institution. If you're interested in enrolling your child at ISM, the website will provide you with the information you need to know: from admissions to curriculumand other important details. It also highlights the different outreach programs, as well as the children's activities and achievements.



LI'L HANDS CLUB DAY AT DREAM TOWN

Li'l Hands Club members enjoyed the fun-filled Fun Day-Family Day held recently at Dream Town, Robinsons Manila Aug. 24. Members received lootbags and balloons upon registration. Shown are the best works for the Arts & Crafts Workshop on 'Li'l Hands Performing Pierrot' for ages 7 to 9. Sponsors were Arts & Kraft, Kraft Foods Phils., Dream Town, Progress, OMF Literature and Filway Marketing. Block your calendar on Nov. 16, Saturday for the next Li'l Hands Club Fun Day. Venue is at the RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue corner Dela Costa, Makati City. For inquiries call Amspec at 842-1515 to 17 local 123.

HEALTH FAIR

2-DAY MEDOCAP IN ZAMBO

The public affairs group (AFP-RESCOM) and the 3rd Air Wing (Reserve) participated in a two-day MEDOCAP in Barangays Guisao and Mariki (Zamboanga), named 'Operation Enduring Freedom,' with elements of the US Civic Action Team. Over 4,500 patients were treated in the exercise. Shown are the elements of the US Civic Action Team with members of the PAG team leading them with Col. Charito Plaza, Commander, 3rd Air Wing (Reserve) and Col. Jess Cabarrus (PAF), Commander, PAG.

Ensure for healthy aging

ENSURE is a trusted name among doctors when it comes to complete and balanced oral meal replacement. It is recommended for people 50 and above. Ensure helps maintain ideal body weight and helps protect them against diseases. Even if they are unable to eat properly (whether due to diet restrictions, loss of appetite, or health problems), Ensure helps in total nourishment because it provides all the essential nutrients at the right amounts. It is fortified with ultra trace minerals for cell renewal and prevention of heart disease and cancer. It is also lactose-free, low in sugar, and low in saturated fat and cholesterol. Ensure as a sole source of nutrition truly makes it "a gift of life and a gift of love" for your beloved elderly. A product of Abbott Laboratories, it is available in delicious vanilla and chocolate flavors in powder and liquid form.

Plains & Prints in trade fair

AFTER conquering the fashionable whims of Pinoy females with its chic and stylish clothes with local celebrity endorser Gretchen Barretto, Plains & Prints apparel will conquer the international market by being one of the six Philippine retail brands to participate in the Asean Trade fair in Bangkok, Thailand from Oct. 14 to 20, organized in Manila by the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem). Together with local brands Bench, Penshoppe, Bayo, Kamiseta and JAG, Plains & Prints will showcase the best of its fashionable tops, chic skirts and pants--proudly manufactured locally. The Philippine pavilion in the Bangkok Trade fair will have an 88-sq. m. to showcase all the featured local brands by creating mini-store vignettes that reflect the brand image and philosophy.

NEW VIDEO CITY IN MALATE

Video City, the leading video retail and rental shop in the country, opened a new outlet in Malate, Manila recently. Video City president and COO Teresita Cruz and young actress Anne Curtis led the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Video City has over 220 outlets nationwide and continues to grow to bring quality videos and services to more people. With a P15 rate on rentals and membership plus exciting promos, Video City guarantees a fun-filled visit to any of its stores.

Product FILES

'Anak ng Pangit'

DEFINITELY for those who wish to read beautiful and classic love stories. This is a novel that defies the usual standard and plots of romance pocketbooks.

Twenty-O-One
Moments
Anak ng Pangit
BY FEBRUARY ANNE CRUZ

"Anak ng Pangit" is the story of a young beautiful woman who has to face the cruelty of other people, for possessing such a lovely face despite having a mother who's ugly beyond imagination. In an attempt to find herself in a faraway place, what she finds instead is true love and the happiness it brings for someone like her looking for it all her life.

Moments Pocketbooks are being published by Twenty-O-One Publishing Corp. and is available at Merriam & Webster Bookstore, National Bookstore, and Expressions Bookstore.

SUCCESS STORY

RP holds share in global call center market

THE PHILIPPINES' venture into the call center industry has proven to be a success story.

This was the finding of Price-WaterhouseCooper Consulting, an international consulting firm, which recently conducted a study on offshore business processing which includes call center outsourcing.

According to the PWC study, the Philippines has been chosen as a preferred hub for customer interaction services, accounting for 25 percent approval rating of the surveyed participants. Respondents of the study are multinational companies from Europe and North America.

This positive trend indicates that call centers are and will remain to be an essential part of the e-business growth in the Philippines.

Outsourced call center industry in the Philippines experienced a high growth rate in 2000-2001.

Initially, call centers started as providers of e-mail response and handling technical support. Through the years, the indsutry expanded its services to travel, financial, educational support, consumer services, online business-to-consumer and business-to-business supports.

At present, there are close to 30 call centers operating in the Philippines and this number is expected to increase in the years to come.

The Department of Trade and Industry estimates that the call center business will generate $864 million in 2004 from $173 million in 2001.

The industry's expansion and growth can be attributed to the continuing support of the Philippine government through the development of infrastructure vital for call center operations.

The government's strong support to the outsourcing business has led them to promote IT zones. Investors who locate their companies in these specified IT zones can avail themselves of tax exemptions.

The Philippines' competitive edge is its pool of young professional agents who have college degrees and can speak English with a flawless American accent. The large low-cost labor pool is highly skilled and trainable.

About 72 percent of the population speaks fluent English, ranking the Philippines as the third largest English-speaking country with a 94-percent literacy rate. The language advantage makes the Philippines a prime choice of US companies.

The Filipino culture is also very much attuned to the United States. This makes it easier for Americans to deal with Philippine businesses. Compared with other Asian locations, the Philippines has one of the lowest turnover rates for call agents.

One of the largest and fastest-growing end-to-end provider of customer relationship management solutions in the Philippines is Customer Contact Center Inc. or C-Cubed. C-Cubed aims to position the Philippines as the location of choice for outsourced services in the world. At present, it has four contact centers spread out in strategic locations in Metro Manila.

"We should take a broader view of the call center business. What you do is not just purely handling customers but being able to do back office work here," says Xavier B. Gonzales, chief executive officer of C-Cubed.

International Data Corp. forecasts a 20-percent growth in the Information and Communication Technology outsourcing spending in Asia-Pacific over the next four years.

McKinsey and Co., on the other hand, foresees the market for outsourced IT services to reach $180 billion by 2010, 24 percent of which is from the call center industry.

With the increasing popularity of the Philippines as a cell center hub, C-Cubed is set to increase its number of seats to 1,300 by the end of the year.

It currently has 750 seats servicing such companies as Sony, AIG, JVC, Samsung, the Lopez group of companies, Gatorade, Dannon and Sunlife of Canada.

German markets RP's qualities in IT world

From page C8

sourcing Research have already ked the Philippines as one of the world's top four offshore outsourcing destinations for application development and call center services.

The Giga Information Group has said the country is the world's best offshore alternative to India and has the potential of becoming the call center hub of Asia.

These attributes have encouraged the significant growth in the call center business in the Philippines and Ellspermann's Piton wants to be in more than just the call center business.

"It is quite unfortunate that only a very few people in this country, and more importantly, corporate decision makers abroad, seem to be aware of this fact. On the other hand, it enables us to carry this message to our potential clients in different regions in the world," he explains.

Piton, which has emerged as the largest IT offshore vendor network and consulting firm in the Philippines, currently represents 20 local IT service providers including domestic and international software development firms, multimedia and web design companies and contact centers.

Fortune 500

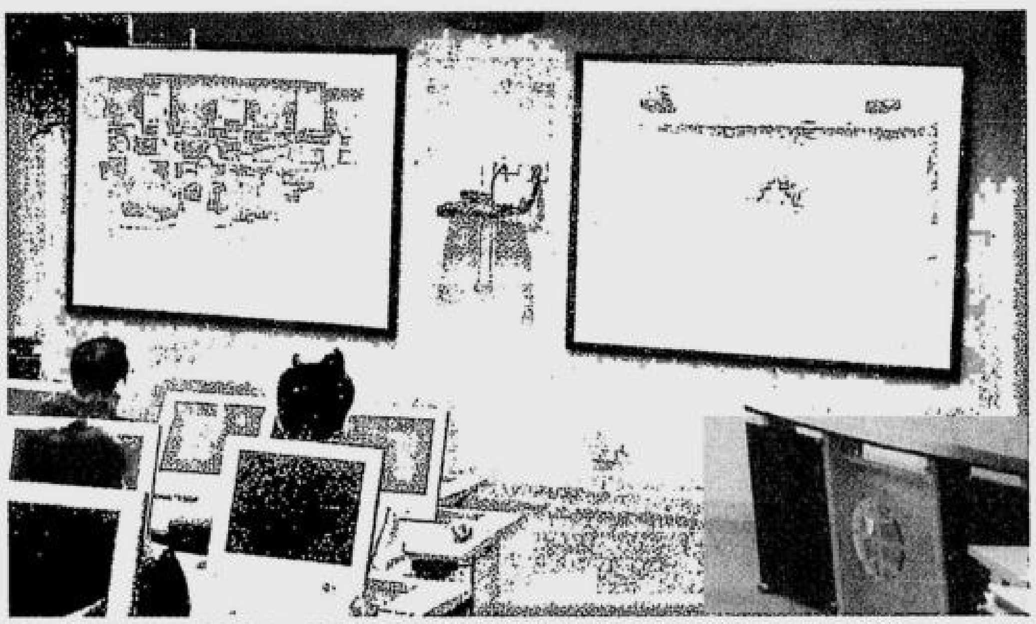
Its network's clients include Fortune 500 companies such as Citibank, P & G, Microsoft, Epson, Canon, Fluor-Daniel, Schlumberger and Nokia.

And as far as Ellspermann is concerned, the time to market the offshore capabilities of the Philippines has never been better.

"The continuing economic downturn is forcing more foreign-based corporations to consider offshore outsourcing as the best way to significantly reduce cost without sacrificing quality. With geo-political tensions on the rise in other parts of the world, the Philippines' position as one of the world's foremost offshore outsourcing destinations has been strengthened," he adds.

Ellspermann adds that it probably helps that he is a foreigner, so he presents himself as a more credible source of information about the Philippines, at least in the American and European corporate worlds.

"I can certainly understand what foreigners think about the Philippines. I know because I also thought that the Philippines was a banana republic before I came here. So I cannot really blame them for thinking that the Philippines is just about the Abu Sayyaf. My job is to help change that perception," he says.



THE AIM takes pride in its Global Distance Learning network facility.

Conduct global meetings, without leaving the office

From page C8

that we have plus the World ank volumes that we'll get every year, we've got one of the biggest libraries for research materials in the region," De Ocampo beamed.

Also, the videoconferencing facility that can hold up to 45 people at a time is also one of the best GDLN facilities among World Bank partners worldwide.

With 30 flat screen monitors set on long tables in a miniature theater fashion, the GDLN facility at AIM could be the venue for intelligent discussions among government officials and officers of multinational companies.

For a fee, any company can gain access to these facilities. Meetings can be held with regional officers abroad without having to send people to all parts of the world.

Changing the face of decision making

"Companies and agencies that will use the videoconferencing facility will be able to save both time and money. At the same time, the resource materials will catapult the country into global leadership by boosting its comparative advantage—education. This will also remind people that not everything in the Philippines is negative," De Ocampo said.

Within the next 12 months, he said the AIM would strive to bring lectures to other parts of the country. Right now, lecture recipients were mostly in other countries because Philippine provinces did not have the proper facility to conduct videoconferencing sessions.

If this would be accomplished, he said government finance managers stood to benefit a lot as they could get trained by world-class AIM lecturers and professors without having to leave their provinces.

Exchanges with policy makers from different countries, on the other hand, would give local decision makers a different perspective of the world.

"It will depend on whether or not they will use what they pick up from their foreign counterparts. Not having information is worse than gaining at least a bit more from others to help them come up with better decisions," De Ocampo said.

In a country as rich in natural and human resources as the Philippines, not very few have said that it would only take correct policies and the strict implementation of these to move the country forward.

If learning from more successful counterparts can be done without even leaving the country and by just sitting in one room, this goal of actually progressing may be less difficult to achieve.

NOTICE OF TENDER OFFER TO THE STOCKHOLDERS OF WILLIAM, GOTHONG AND ABOITIZ, INC.

To All Shareholders of William, Gothong & Aboitiz, Inc. ("WG&A"):

Please be informed that on September 23, 2002, Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. filed a Tender Offer Statement (SEC From 19-1) with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Philippine Stock Exchange pursuant to Section 19 of the Securities Regulation Code in connection with its intention to acquire 100% of the outstanding capital stock of WG&A which, as of September 12, 2002, comprised of 1,498,082,138 common shares at P 3.98 per share. Fifty percent (50%) of the consideration is payable in cash not later than ten (10) business days after the termination of the tender offer ("Payment Date"), while the remaining fifty percent (50%) of the consideration is payable in peso-denominated notes for a period of five years payable in forty-eight (48) equal monthly installments, with the first installment due on the last day of the thirteenth (13th) month after the Payment Date and subsequent installments due on the last day of each month thereafter, bearing simple interest on the diminishing balance of the principal at the rate of 12% per annum, which interest shall accrue from the date following the Payment Date and shall be payable in sixty (60) consecutive monthly installments commencing on the last day of the month following the Payment Date and subsequent installments due on the last day of each month thereafter; provided, however, that if any payment of principal or interest is due on a day which is not a Business Day, such payment shall be due on the next succeeding Business Day and such extension of time shall be taken into account in calculating the amount of interest payable on the relevant payment date. For this purpose, "Business Day" shall mean any day excluding (i) Saturday, (ii) Sunday and (iii) any day on which commercial banks in Cebu City, Philippines are authorized or required by law or other government actions to close.

Stockholders as of October 7, 2002 (the "Record Date") may tender all or a portion of their WG&A common shares for acceptance and purchase by AEV, subject to the Terms of the Tender Offer, beginning at 9:00 a.m. of October 14, 2002 until 3:00 p.m. of November 22, 2002 (the "Tender Offer Period").

Tendering stockholders of WG&A who hold stock certificates ("Scrip Stockholders") should submit within the Tender Offer Period their duly endorsed stock certificates and two (2) copies of duly accomplished Application to Tender Shares together with the following requirements to ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc. (the "Depository'), 17th Floor, Tower One & Exchange Plaza, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Telephone No. (02) 849-8888 (Contact Person: Nilaida S. Enriquez):

For corporate stockholders	For individual stockholders
1. Certified true copies of the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws of the stockholder and latest amendment/s thereof.	1. Two (2) valid identification cards containing the specimen signature of the stockholders.
2. A notarized Secretary's Certificate substantially in the form prescribed by AEV setting forth resolutions of the tendering shareholder's Board of Directors authorizing the tender and sale of the WG&A Shares and designating the signatories for the purpose.	2. For stockholders acting through an attorney-in-fact, a duly notarized Special Power of Attorney substantially in the form prescribed by AEV (N.B. Endorsement of stock certificates/s must be made by the stockholder himself).
3. A duly accomplished signature card containing the specimen signatures of its authorized signatories validated by the Corporate Secretary and verified by its broker or officer of the bank where it is maintaining an account.	3. A duly accomplished signature card containing the specimen signature of the stockholder and verified by his broker or officer of the bank where he is maintaining an account.

For the convenience of Scrip Stockholders based in Visayas and Mindanao, shares may be tendered by submitting the foregoing requirements at the Cebu and Davao branch offices of the Depository not later than November 15, 2002:

ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc.-Cebu Branch
Mezzanine Floor, TPG Center,
Escario cor. F. Ramos Sts., Cebu City
Telephone No.: (032) 255-1888
Contact Person: Cheryl M. Lim

ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc.-Davao Branch
Dr. #7 M.T. Aquino Building,
Cabaguio Avenue Corner Bolcan Street, Davao City
Telephone No.: (082) 224-2860
Contact Person: Miguel Luis R. Aquino

After November 15, 2002, Scrip Stockholders in Visayas and Mindanao may tender their shares only with the Depository's head office in Makati City.

The Depository will submit the share certificates for validation to WG&A's Stock Transfer Agent (BPI-Stock Transfer Unit, c/o Mr. Real Rodriguez, 4th Floor, BPI Bldg., Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Telephone No. (02) 816-9321). Defective applications (e.g., discrepancy between the specimen signatures on file and the endorsement) must be corrected within the tender offer period to avoid being rejected by AEV. Hence, shareholders are strongly urged from tendering at the last minute to allow sufficient time to correct any deficiency in their application. Shareholders are also urged to indicate their telephone nos. in their respective application forms to allow the Depository and Stock Transfer Agent to inform them immediately of any deficiency in their applications.

Tendering stockholders of WG&A whose shares are lodged with the Philippine Central Depository Nominee Corporation ("PCD") ("Scripless Stockholders") should instruct their brokers to electronically transfer their WG&A shares to ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc. (the "Broker") for receipt by the Broker prior to 3:00 p.m. of November 22, 2002. The Broker shall hold the tendered WG&A common shares only as custodian for said shares.

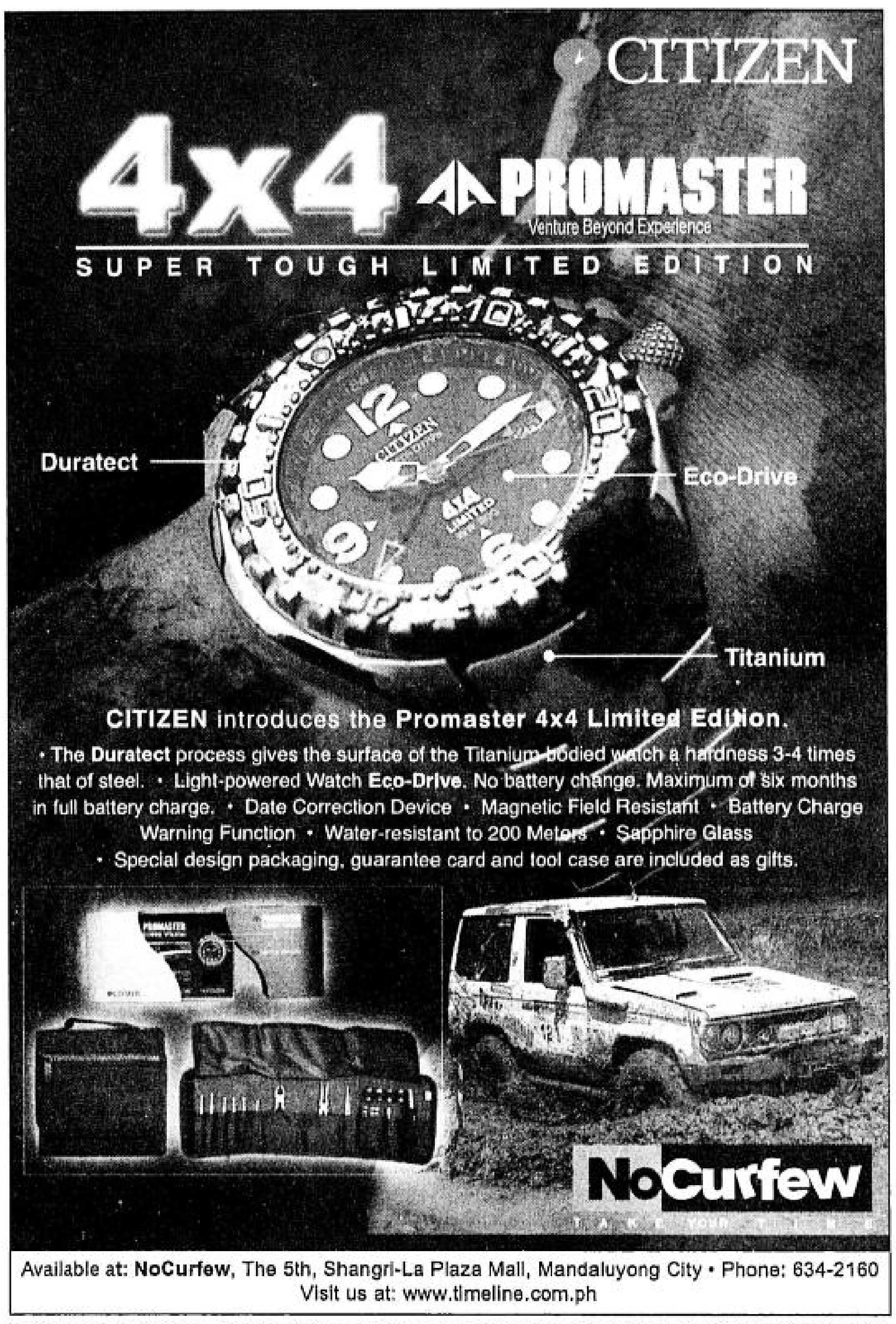
Tendering stockholders shall have the right to withdraw any tendered WG&A common shares at any time during the Tender Offer Period. For a withdrawal to be effective, a written notice of withdrawal must be received by the Depository (for Scrip Stockholders) or by the Broker (for Scripless Stockholders) before 3:00 p.m. of November 22, 2002.

The Tender Offer is further subject to the terms of conditions described in the Terms of the Tender Offer. Copies of SEC Form 19-1 may be downloaded by the shareholders of WG&A from the AEV website: aboitizequityventures.com. Copies of SEC Form 19-1 and the tender offer application kit may also be obtained by WG&A stockholders from the Depository/Broker and the Stock Transfer Agent at any of their respective addresses stated above.

This Notice is published in compliance with Section 19 of the Securities Regulation Code. Copies of this Notice, along with the Application to Tender Shares and the attachments, shall be sent to the stockholders by personal delivery or registered mail.

NOTE: YOU MAY CONSULT YOUR LEGAL AND/OR FINANCIAL ADVISER OR DIRECT INQUIRIES OR REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION TO THE DEPOSITORY OR BROKER.

(Sgd.) ERRAMON I. ABOITIZ
Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer
ABOITIZ EQUITY VENTURES, INC.



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Visit us at: www.timeline.com.ph

Worldwide limited edition of only 1,000 pieces. Each watch is marked with a serial number from 0001 to 1000

German markets RP's qualities in IT world

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

GERMAN national Ralf Ellspermann used to visit his brother who worked in the Philippines and he learned during one of his trips that the Philippines ranked high in the IT world in terms of competence and trainability.

Ellspermann wondered then why the Philippines lagged behind India as a market for offshore IT services, when it had a superior pool of so-called knowledge workers, even surpassing India's own.

As a marketing man himself, Ellspermann thought that the answer lied in the fact that the Philippines lagged behind India in terms of marketing its unique attributes to the Western world, leaving foreigners with the false idea that the Philippines was only about kidnappings and the Abu Sayyaf.

Ellspermann, thus, saw an opportunity to be part of the solution to the problem of properly positioning the Philippines in the IT world.

The idea also came at a time when he was looking for the chance to be independent or be on his own after working for different companies.

The 31-year-old German is an international marketing graduate of the School of Business Ludwigshafen. He first worked as a banker in the Savings Bank Bad Duerkheim then moved to Japan.

When he saw the opportunities here, he packed up his bags, left his job as a strategic marketing officer of DaimlerChrysler Japan Holding and set up shop in the Philippines.

ELLSPERMANN

He joined PLDT chairman Antonio Cojuangco, Bank of Commerce director Ramon Cojuangco and Soluziona Phils. president Jose Guingona, and set up the Philippine IT Offshore Network in 2001.

Piton was formed primarily to market Philippine e-services globally and bridge the local supply of IT human resources with international demand for offshore information technology outsourcing services.

"What we want to do is to give foreign firms information about the IT network here. We represent vendors here to companies looking for call center operations, multimedia, web design and medical transcription services," he says.

Ellspermann's job calls for providing foreign firms the sales pitch on the Philippines.

He says it is not too hard a task because he believes that the Philippines has a lot of unique attributes that make it an attractive place to invest in.

"One of the most striking differences is the fact that telecommunications here is more cost-efficient than in India, which is crucial when you have an offshore operation," he says in an interview.

Another factor going for the Philippines is its close identification with the culture in the United States, including the language.

He says it is a fact that some clients, in the United States especially, do not relate well with Indian customer center specialists because of the thick accent and the use of British English.

"Because of this close cultural affinity with the US, the Philippines is slowly being recognized for its work force which has world-class English proficiency. It puts the Philippines apart from China and other countries that may be cheaper to operate in, but maybe not in the long run," he adds.

Ellspermann also cites the Filipinos' high level of service orientation and their caring nature, which are perfect for the call center industry.

Good qualities

"These qualities of hospitality and sensitivity to customers' needs make Filipinos ideal in the offshore IT services market," he explains.

Respected IT research organizations such as Gartner, Giga Information Group and Software Out-

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Conduct global meetings, without leaving the office

By Abigail L. Ho

MANY may contest communications theorist Marshall MacLuhan's "Global Village" theory, but one has to admit that the steady advancement of technology is bringing the world closer in more ways than one.

The Internet has made information from all over the world available to almost everyone who has access to an Internet-connected computer.

Further exchange of information is also made possible by even the trusty old telephone, through the wonders of videoconferencing, which allows people to engage in actual meetings even when they are thousands of miles apart.

From these advancements sprung the idea of a global meeting place that would not require participants to actually fly to one specific country on the globe. They could all engage in an exchange of information without leaving the comforts of their own time zones.

This idea became a reality for the country when the Asian Institute of Management and the World Bank joined forces to provide Filipino decision makers in both the public and private sectors a venue for information exchange with their counterparts abroad.

AIM president and former finance chief Roberto de Ocampo could not hide his excitement while telling reporters about the AIM-World Bank Global Distance Learning Network (GDLN) that would not only be a meeting place of sorts for policy makers but also a treasure trove of information on development issues.

Power of persuasion

He related that high technology was the best way in this day and age to spread the importance of development issues all over the world.

A World Bank initiative provided a means for different countries to do exactly that by establishing partnerships with institutions in these countries for free seminars and trainings using high technology equipment.

The only catch, De Ocampo said, was that the World Bank partners had to infuse the required investments for the facilities to be used in seminars and trainings.

DE OCAMPO

"We tried to convince the World Bank to fund part of our global distance learning facility but that was quite a hurdle as the World Bank policy was only to encourage partnerships and provide content to partner institutions. But I found a way to get around this by making them see that the AIM is also a content provider, unlike their other partners abroad that are purely recipients of resource materials," he said.

De Ocampo's efforts finally paid off in May when the World Bank agreed to provide $450,000 worth of hardware needed for the GDLN facility to take off.

Information hub

With this new GDLN facility to be formally launched on Oct. 15, the country could well be the richest in the region, at least in terms of resource materials on development issues.

These materials could then be accessed through AIM's library and could even be translated into more layman's terms by the educational institution's faculty members.

"With the existing materials

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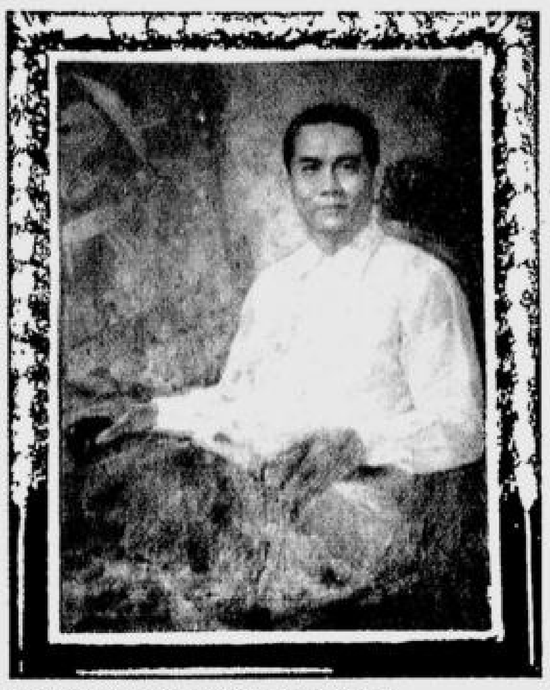
The Amorsolo of portrait painting



PORTRAIT of President Diosdado Macapagal in Malacañang

Text by Lito B. Zulueta
Photos by Edwin Bacasmas

WHEN Fernando Amorsolo would be commissioned for portraits, he would politely demur and refer clients to Romeo B. Enriquez. "He's the portraitist, not me," he would say. Much later, when he could barely paint, Amorsolo would refer his clients to Enriquez's atelier for their favorite idyllic landscapes.

Enriquez himself (born on Dec. 8, 1920) once restored an Amorsolo long after the maestro had passed away, and it was only fitting for the younger artist to pay homage to the National Artist by retouching the golden canvas in order to rekindle the light to its old intensity, to stir back the images to their former vivacity. In a way, the two artists complemented one another. Enriquez was to portraits as what Amorsolo was to landscapes.

But alas, while Amorsolo's sun continues to rise, Enriquez's has long ago set. When he died on April 1, 1997, Enriquez was a neglected figure, known only to a small coterie of collectors and devoted admirers. Before his death, he had barely touched the brush since a stroke two years before had left him bedridden. Although he was already in his 70s, he had continued to accept commissions, some of them from abroad, a proof that he continued to command renown and respect for his solid work. But his death barely stirred the art world. He was the last of the classic romantic realists in a world gone romantically mad with mixed media, collage and conceptual art. The classic romantic realists remain only in the art bourse—witness the high prices that Amorsolos command at Christie's and Sotheby's.

The popular and critical neglect of Enriquez flies in the face of the ubiquity of his portraits and other works. Most textbooks on Jose Rizal carry Enriquez's portrait of the national hero. At Fort Santiago, the Rizal Shrine is graced by

THE AMORSOLO/ p.D6

> He has often been compared with Fernando Amorsolo, but Romeo Enriquez has languished in critical obscurity since his death in 1997

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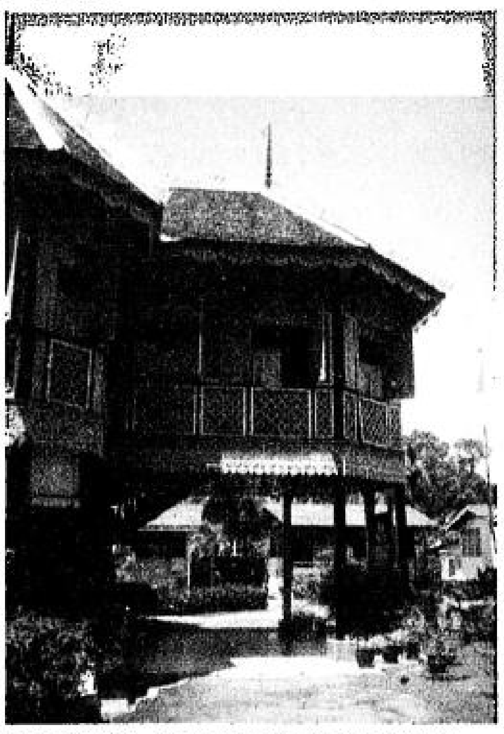
Can Asian architecture survive the McDonald's century?



THE ROYAL Palace in Kuala Kangsar in Malaysia is a structure raised from the ground on wooden posts, that clearly shows architectural similarities with Philippine structures.

Conclusion

Excerpts from a paper delivered at the Congress 2002, Asia Pacific Space Designers Association, Manila, Philippines

SPACED OUT

Augusto F. Villalon

IT was not until the 18th and 19th centuries, when the Philippine house adapted to foreign influences—Chinese and Spanish—that its distinctive character evolved.

When the Spanish conquistadores established new towns throughout the Philippine archipelago, the street plan was laid out in a checkerboard pattern around a central square, following Renaissance urban patterns in the West.

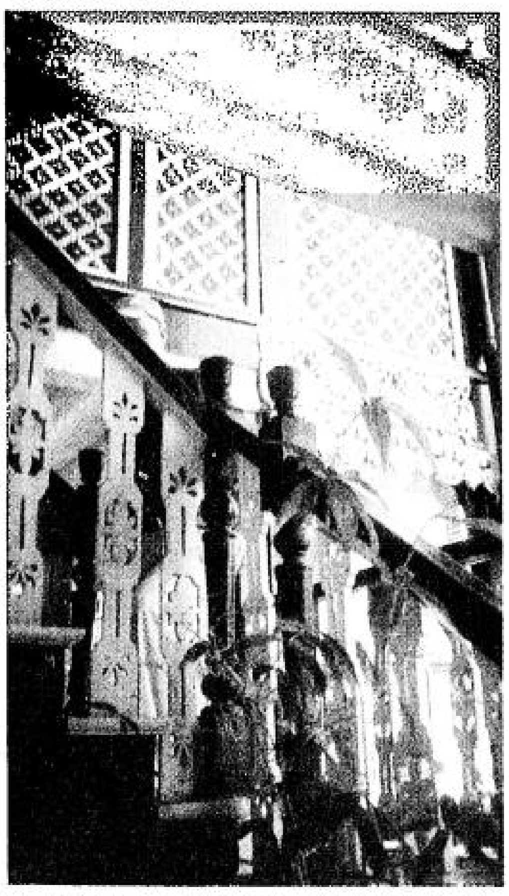
The rural house adapted to its new urban location. The houses became larger than their rural cousins and were built of stronger materials. The basic floor plan remained the same. The living quarters were raised from the ground on posts. Instead of the ground level being left open, it was enclosed by stone walls.

Replacing the thatched roof, a tall hip roof of terra-cotta tiles covered the structures. The sides of the roof splayed out slightly, with upturned roof corners establishing a link with Chinese architecture.

The decorative motifs seen in the houses demonstrated the fusion of stylistic influences even further. Craftsmen of Chinese origin carved door panels and balusters with Western motifs interpreted with oriental delicacy.

The massiveness of the exterior façade disappears in the interior, where one space flows transparently into the other, all the better to induce maximum air circulation so necessary in the hot tropics. When wide double doors swung open, all interior spaces fused into one. Open fretwork covered the wall area between door headers and ceiling, to allow a maximum flow of air around the rooms.

The fretwork was usually Western, the sinuous forms of the Art Noveau being a favored style. However, the cultural sensitivity of the Chinese craftsmen was apparent in the appearance of the final carved work.



EUROPEAN and Chinese influences mix in decorative patterns of the stair balusters and fretwork as they do in the Philippine bahay-na-bato.

Entire walls could slide open in various degrees to control the tropical sunlight with the possibility of ultimately opening the house to the exterior. Large windows ran the entire length of façades. The principal windows were wood-framed, covered with a screen of translucent *kapis* (*Placuna placenta*) shells installed on a wooden grid. A second row of wooden shutters provided a cooling alternative, allowing air to enter while shutting the sunlight out. Both sets of windows slid as Japanese screens do on a wide wooden sill.

Between the sill and the floor was a second set of windows installed behind wooden balusters. When top and bottom rows of windows were pushed open, the entire wall disappears to allow full contact with the exterior.

Fusion

The Philippine house shows the fusion of foreign technology and styles. It follows the Austronesian house prototype but adapts to Philippine rural conditions. It evolves into an urban house, most of them built by Chinese and Filipino craftsmen who take off from the rural house prototype, weave into it decorative detailing based on Western design motifs executed with an obvious Chinese sensibility. At times, the result is pleasantly naïf, but more often than not, the result is one of sophistication.

The Philippine house of the period maintains its connections with urban structures in other Southeast Asian cities—the living quarters raised above the ground, the large door and window openings, the open fretwork at the top of interior panels, the wood panels for interior and exterior walls, and the terra cotta tile roofs, are all common to the region.

The Philippine house, the Penang shophouse, the traditional Dayak longhouse and all of the residential architecture found in the region are representative variations on a single theme. Each has taken the "global" Austronesian prototype and adapted it to suit local cultures, technology and climate.

Making people conscious of the adaptation of the traditional Southeast Asian houses to foreign influences will lessen the threat of globalization.

Being aware of the cultural heritage of each of our nations also takes the fear out of globalization. As long as we are conscious of the uniqueness of our heritage, it is difficult to think that globalization will be the great equalizer that will make design uniform all over the world.

Among other examples, Alvar Aalto furniture will always be considered as international design classics. However, as we recognize international design icons, we must also recognize and appreciate the individual cultural heritage that sets people apart.

Professionalism

It is absolutely important to be appropriate with design. The design professional should be totally aware of new currents in international design. This will enable him to have the correct overview of the style parameters. The method of interpreting his individual overview is another matter.

The reality is that design innovators are few, and we know who those few are. Those who are not innovators follow the lead established by the innovator. I speak strictly in the Philippine context, to note that many local designers follow the international innovators' leads, totally unaware that they are injecting their cultural grounding in what they promote as an "international" work.

Many of the results follow the adaptation process that developed generations ago. The local culture shines through the completed work.

It shows that sometimes, your culture is hard to hide. But why try to hide it? I am so proud of my culture that I flaunt it.

Cultural grounding is more important in our era than it ever has been. Cultural grounding allows us to understand the best of international influences while reminding us that global unity is premised on the diversity of the people who form this unity. It is cultural grounding that sets us apart from other people around the world and makes each one of us who we are.

E-mail the author at afv@pacific.net.ph

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MANILA

Grand dame of alternative art

DIDI Dee of Hiraya Gallery: A life devoted to art

PHOTO: ROMY HOMILLADA

LEAVE it to Didi Dee to come up with an art exhibit by a German photographer who insinuates himself into famous photos of the British royal family, the Shah of Iran, the Beatles and Colin Powell.

Or, Martin Genodepa's "Wrapped," which is coral stone sculpture wrapped in wire-strengthened cloth. Is the piece about a breast or a womb?

Or Gabriel Barredo's filigreed altar, or coffin, depending on one's predilection.

Surprise is what Didi Dee's visitors have come to expect from her Hiraya Gallery. Tucked away on United Nations Avenue, which was once stately acacia-lined Isaac Peral in Ermita, Hiraya assumes various personalities, shapes and forms with each new exhibit.

Didi has become known for her fearless shows. Fearless, but also crazy, was the show she mounted at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in May 2000. It was a fashion show of an African friend's designs, complemented by a set done by a French designer, and choreography, sculpture and music by Filipino artists.

"A virtual sensory overload," Alya Honasan said of the show that almost brought Didi to the poorhouse but was the talk of the town for months.

The fear of blood turned Didi away from medicine and psychiatry. She turned to her mother's pre-school, and finally, her father's Modern Frames, Manila's top framer in the '60s and '70s.

It came almost as a matter of course that she would put up a gallery and name it Hiraya, or "imagination." Since its birth in October 1980, Hiraya has mounted 42 group shows and 157 solo exhibits.

Nurture

Didi went with the flow. The martial law years brought forth social realism by young artists, who have since spread their wings after some nurturing from Didi: Antipas Delotavo, Neil Doloricon, Mark Justiniani, Pablo Baens Santos and Jess Abrera.

Rock Drilon, Benjie Cabangis, Roy Veneracion and Ray Carating were just starting out when they held a group exhibit at Hiraya in 1980. Look at them now!

It's not as if Didi knew much about art when she started out. Bobi Valenzuela was her frontliner, while she ran the business.

Didi subscribes to the Buddhist precept "Travel light," in order to check materialism. "When we are custodians of our wealth, our talent, it becomes our responsibilty to make use of it to the max," she says. "If the rich saw that, there wouldn't be so much poverty. Life gives back to you, strangely."

Through her connections, she has sent artists abroad to exhibit.

In exchange, foreign artists have exhibited in her gallery: the German photographer whose mug is an add-on to the Beatles' own, is Matthias Wahner, who won the 1992 Bavarian state prize and several grants. Spanish-Filipino Valeria, the Finn Kirsti Anttila and the mestiza-Finn Kata Antonio, have also exhibited at Hiraya.

Hiraya has also come to be known as "a haven for Cordillera art." The Tam-awan Village Artists composed of Ged Alangui, Roland Bay-an, Jojo Elmeda, Jordan Mang-osan and John Frank Sabado, has exhibited there.

Sabado, a native of Mankayan, Benguet, has had four repeat solos at Hiraya since 1994. His last solo last March exhibited mixed media, including what could be called a vertical triptych held together by netting screwed on with beads to a wooden frame, screwed on to wooden totem-like poles, and crowned with tribal feathers (whew!). Sabado's pieces have traveled to China, Australia and Kuala Lumpur. And he is only 33.

Leonard Aguinaldo is a younger contemporary of Sabado who also hails from the Cordilleras and bears close watching after several successful shows at Hiraya.

Symbiosis

Somehow, the symbiosis between curator and creator is clearly evident at Hiraya. The invitations her public is privileged to receive are lovingly designed and written. They show two or three of the exhibitor's work in full color on 100-pound book paper. The foldout tells of pride of work and kinship with the human race.

"My job," Didi says, "is to challenge (the artists) to do better, to do more than they're doing. Produce a work people can look at on several levels."

A curator "edits and decides what should be brought out to the public. An artist is capable of doing so many things." Still, she does not pin the artist down to one style. "The next show could be a different idea, a different medium. They have to grow, change."

Amid the business of running a gallery, Didi does her own cooking. She hangs out with buddies, watches art films, and travels to San Francisco annually to spend a month with her mother, taking her to bingo socials.

There is also time to work with the Good Shepherd nuns' mission in Butuan. Sr. Mary John Dumaog, RGS, at one time, asked Didi for help in order for 100 tribal families to register their land and save their ancestral domain from land-grabbers. Didi immediately rallied a host of sponsors, who coughed up the money for the registrations.

Her bent for astrology and Buddhism has kept her calm in the face of intrigues, an occupational hazard in the art world. It also simplifies her life.

Art may be her life, but conversely, her life is lived as art. It is of people like Didi Dee that Maya Angelou wrote, "Life is pure adventure, and the sooner we realize that, the quicker we will be able to treat life as Art."

Joan Orendain

Weekend art courses begin Oct. 19

INDUSTRIAL artist and painter Victor Bella, a graduate of Fine Arts from the Maastricht Academy of Visual Arts in Holland, is holding a series of weekend art courses dubbed as the Arts Inspiration Series for Fun, Gift-Giving and Profit.

Lessons will begin with decorative painting on glass on Oct. 19 at Ink N Stone Bookstore's Activity Center inside The Podium.

Group courses include Artistic Candle-making with Decorative Mold-making, Decorative Painting on Glass Metal and Ceramics, Flower Sculpture, and Figurine-making with Silicon Rubber Mold making, Decorative Herbal and Aromatherapy Soap with Mold-making techniques.

Artistic Candle-making will cover how to produce candles such as figurine, layered, container, gel and floating, with special features such as aromatherapy, scented, slow burning, dripless, hand-painted and insect-repellent versions, including decorative mold-making techniques.

Decorative Painting on Glass, Metal and Ceramics will teach how to make inexpensive materials sparkle with color and elegance. Projects include gemstone perfume bottles, floating candle container, canister, mugs and vases.

Figurine-making with Silicon Rubber Mold-making covers the production of transparent, opaque and hallow figurines, including how to produce decorative mold from extremely durable rubber for the mass reproduction of any artwork.

Decorative Herbal and Aromatherapy Soap with Mold-making covers the creation of molded or sculptured soaps, including the production of the decorative mold.

Flower Sculpture includes the creation of non-withering vibrant and colorful flowers, like orchids, roses, calla lily and daisies, using either oven-fireable or air-drying clay.

Tutorial programs are offered by appointment. A special promo package for the universal craft tutorial is offered until Oct. 25.

Interested participants may visit www.geocities.com/victor_bella for sample works.

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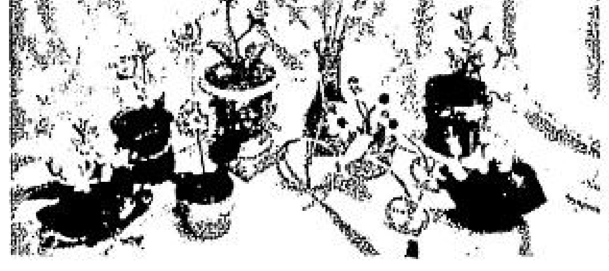
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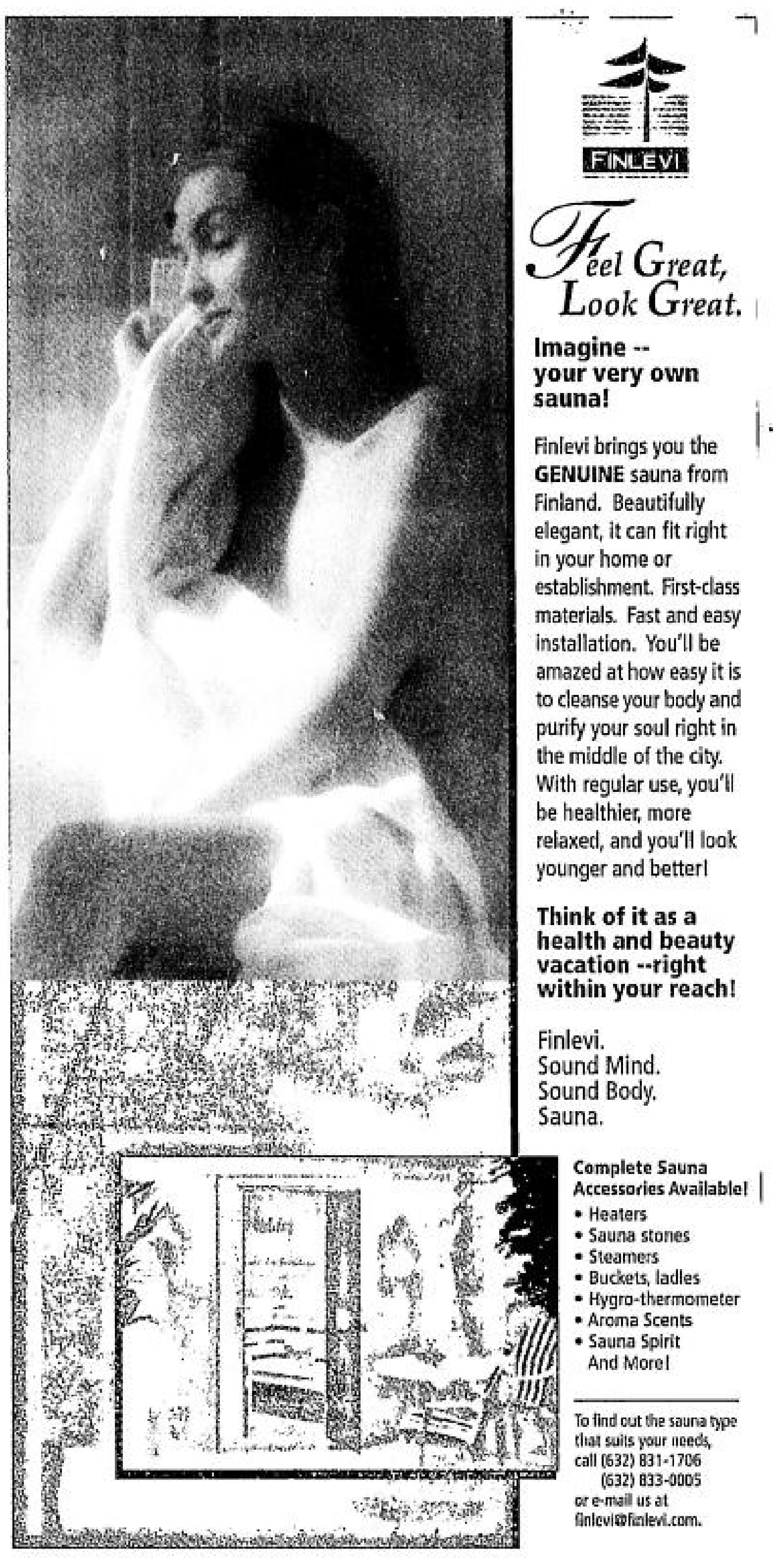
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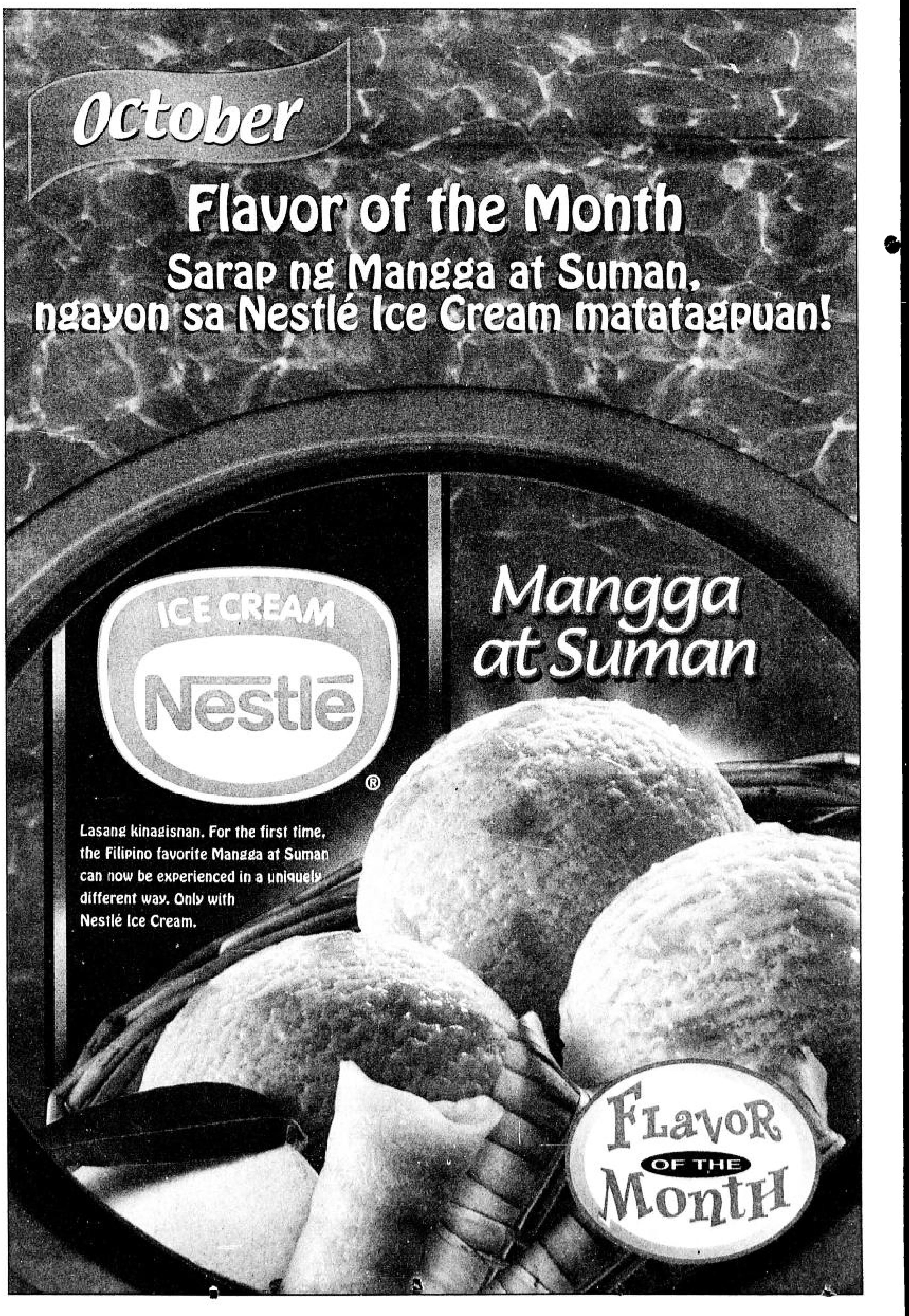

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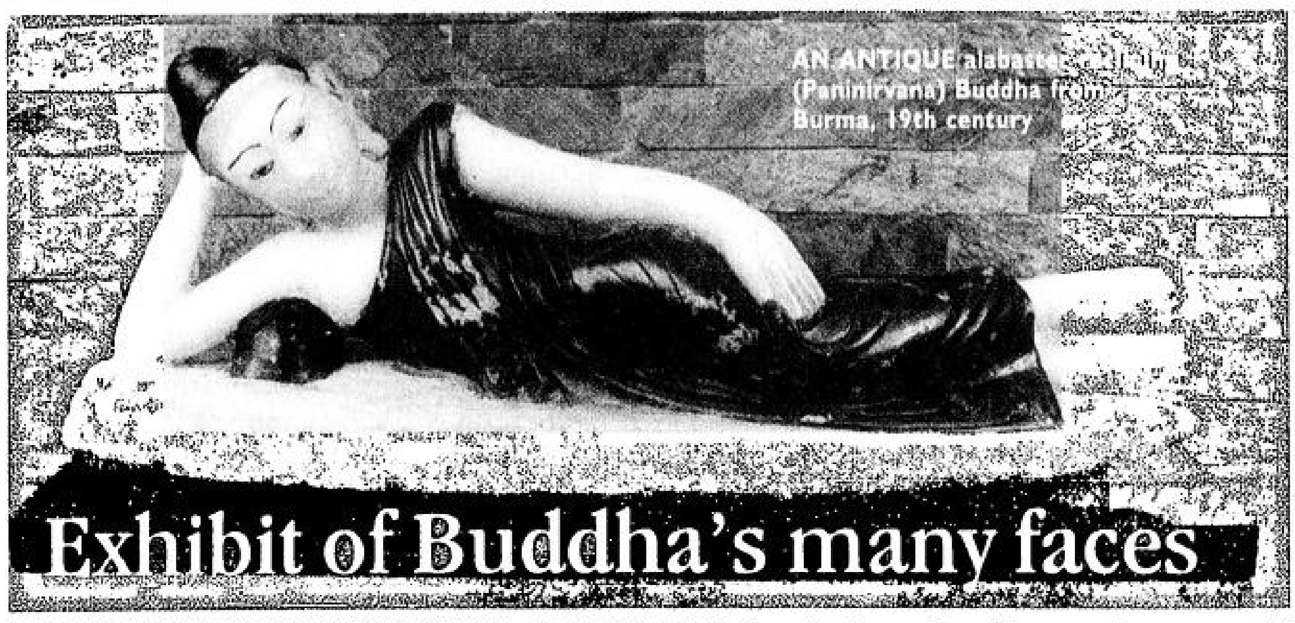

AN ANTIQUE alabaster [illegible] (Paninirvana) Buddha from Burma, 19th century

Exhibit of Buddha's many faces

MANDALAY-STYLE wooden Buddha standing on a lotus pedestal in the *varada* (gesture of charity)

AN INVITATIONAL cocktail on Oct. 18 opens "The Many Faces of Buddha," a two-week exhibit to launch Old Asia's authentic Buddha collection from Myanmar (Burma) in its showroom at the Power Plant Mall, Rockwell, Makati City.

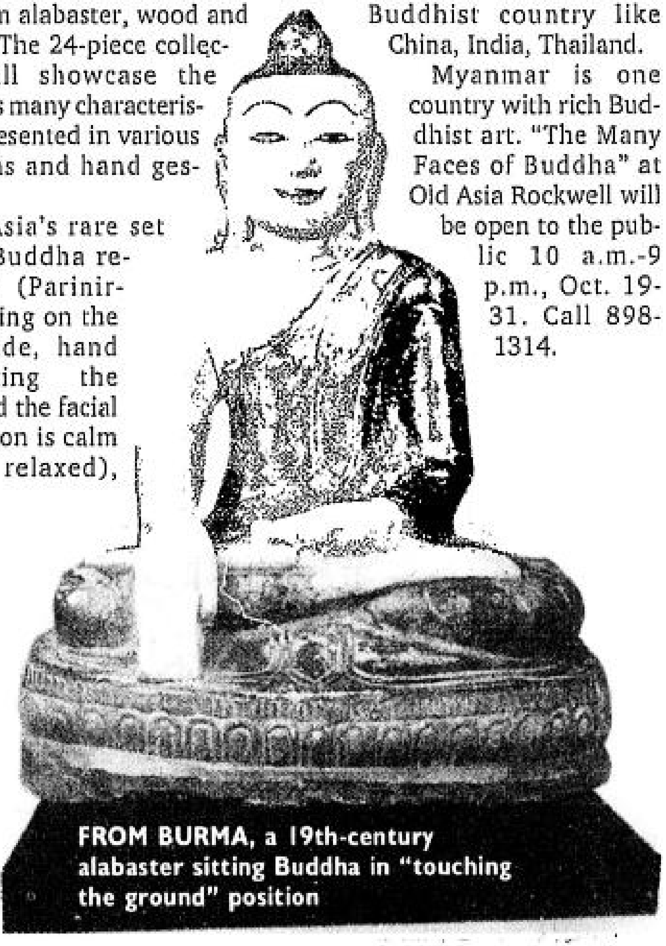
The exhibit features antique (18th- and 19th-century) Buddha images in alabaster, wood and bronze. The 24-piece collection will showcase the Buddha's many characteristics represented in various positions and hand gestures.

Old Asia's rare set shows Buddha reclining (Parinirvana, lying on the right side, hand supporting the head and the facial expression is calm and relaxed), "touching the earth" (Bhumisparsha), or making the gesture of meditation (Dhayana).

The representations are varied, influenced by fashions of the times, signifying Buddhist virtues or relating to legends about the Buddha.

The images of the Buddha have taken stylistic distinctions in each Buddhist country like China, India, Thailand.

Myanmar is one country with rich Buddhist art. "The Many Faces of Buddha" at Old Asia Rockwell will be open to the public 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Oct. 19-31. Call 898-1314.


FROM BURMA, a 19th-century alabaster sitting Buddha in "touching the ground" position

Ugnayan '80 at Big & Small, women artists at Nine, Gomila at Luz, Aquilizan workshop at Lopez

VISUAL ARTS

UGNAYAN '80, the association of fine arts graduates and alumni of the late 1950s from the famous school of fine arts of the University of Sto. Tomas, is celebrating its 22nd anniversary with a grand exhibit at The Big & Small Art Co. (4/L SM Megamall A). Participating artists include D. Alconaba, Efren Alix, Antonio Austria, Rollie M. Bangon, Rosario Bitanga, Boy Estrella, Edith-Mata Guerrero, Rod Jingco, Renato A. Quiroz, E.O. Salazar, Mario Santiago, Lourdes Santos, Koni Samson Sayo, Ruben T. Sindac, Lina Sotto and Romeo Velasco. The name Ugnayan '80 signifies the unity of the group and the year it was organized. Members are drawn together by the bonds of friendship and mutual love for painting that persisted in spite of distances created by time and space. The original members were composed of painters, sculptors, graphic artists, photographers, art deans and art teachers, artists engaged in home life, business, politics. The exhibit runs until Oct. 30. Call Hilda L. Ticoy at 687-7425/ 373-3365.

GALLERY NINE presents "Three Women," an exhibit of works by Irene Araneta, Alice Mabanta and Jo Madarang, until Oct. 22 at the Art Center of SM Megamall. Call 687-7302 or 899-2704.

SPANISH painter Juan Gomila is featured in an exhibit at the Luz Gallery (L.V. Locsin Building, corner Makati and Ayala Avenues) to coincide with the Spanish Month of October. Gomila makes personal paintings that stray from academic and conventional styles. His works are spontaneous visuals. Call 815-6906.

ANA MARI GOY hold her latest exhibit Oct. 22-Nov. 2 at the Finale Art Gallery, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong. Inspired by Impressionism, Goy's works are dainty with a dreamy quality. Among the pieces on exhibit are "Fragrant Shade," with a symphony of reds, oranges, purples, yellows and whites contrasting with the cooling greens of the grass and bushes. "Garden Gateway" has an arbor of pink, red and white blossoms as focal point.

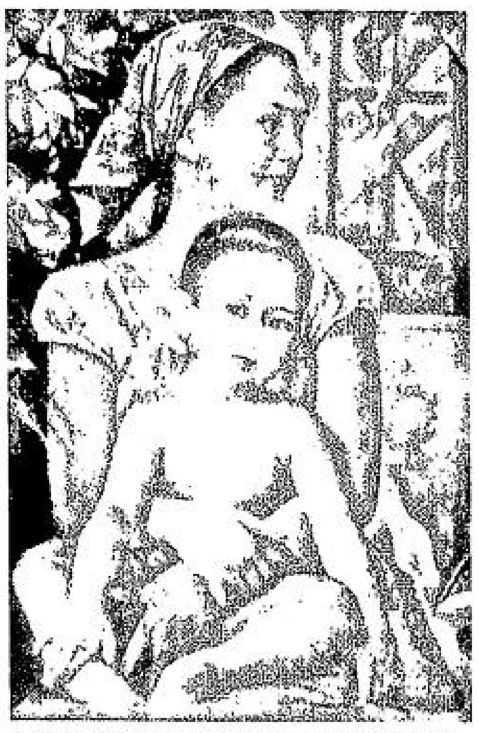
PINTÔ ART GALLERY features individual exhibits of four young contemporary Filipino artists Oct. 20-Nov. 17. CCP Thirteen Artists awardee Jose Santos III explores the play of planar surfaces in "Paper Planes," an exhibit of paintings at The House. Printmaker Pamela Yan combines several modes of art making in her works in "Phase Patterns" in Gallery 2. Erwin Leaño presents several oil on canvas landscapes in "Meandering" at Gallery I. Visual palindromes and the ubiquity of basketball courts in Philippine landscapes are the subjects of Anthony Palomo's watercolors in "Tapat," at the Gallery Shop. Pintô Art Gallery is at 1 Sierra Madre St., Grand Heights, Antipolo City. Call 697-1015.

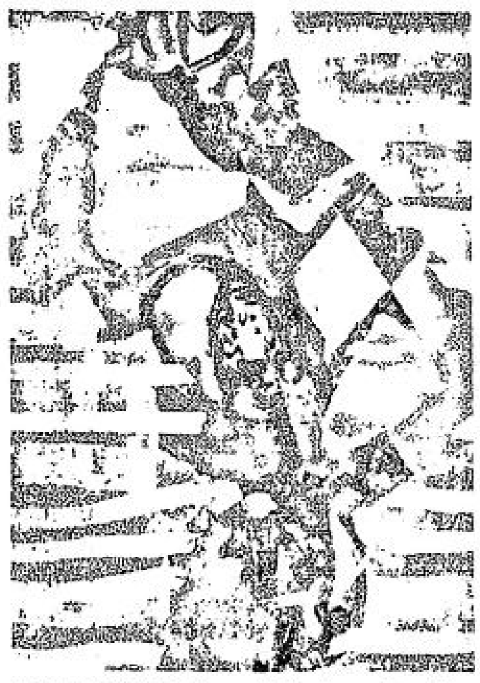
GALLERY FIVE features Victor Secuya and Bruce Brown in a two-man show, "Davao and New York Paintings," until Nov. 12 in Gallery Five, 5/L JS Gaisano Citimall, V. Ilustre Street, Davao City.

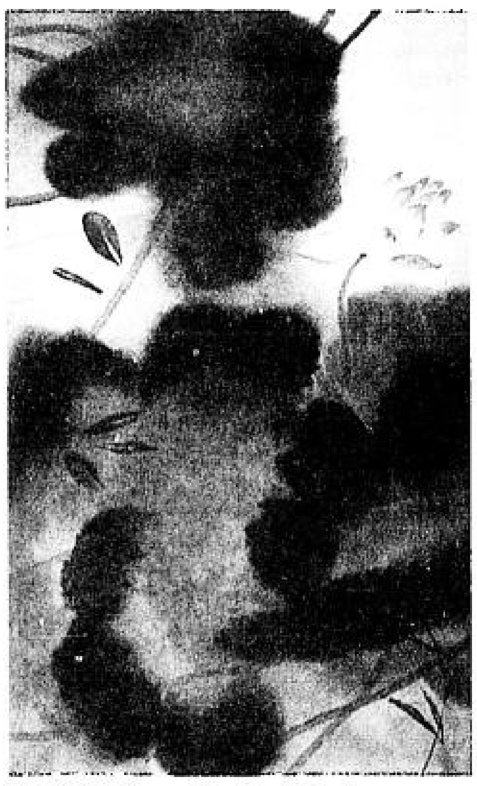
ALFREDO AQUILIZAN will conduct "Workshop I: A Sketch of History" at the Lopez Memorial Museum. Open to 8-12 years old, it is part of the lecture series of the "Zero In: Private Art, Public Lives" exhibit series of the Ateneo-Ayala-Lopez Museums. Call 449-2355.

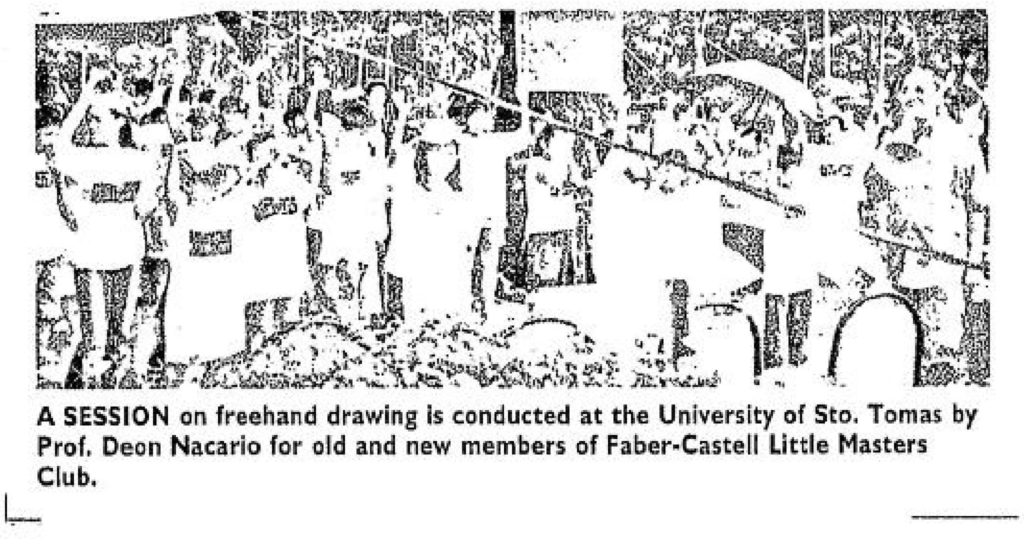
GALLERY 139 presents the works of Dante Castillo in his 15th solo exhibit, "Fascinating Scenes," until Oct. 23. The exhibition coincides with Gallery 139's eighth anniversary this month. Highlights are 10 original artworks in

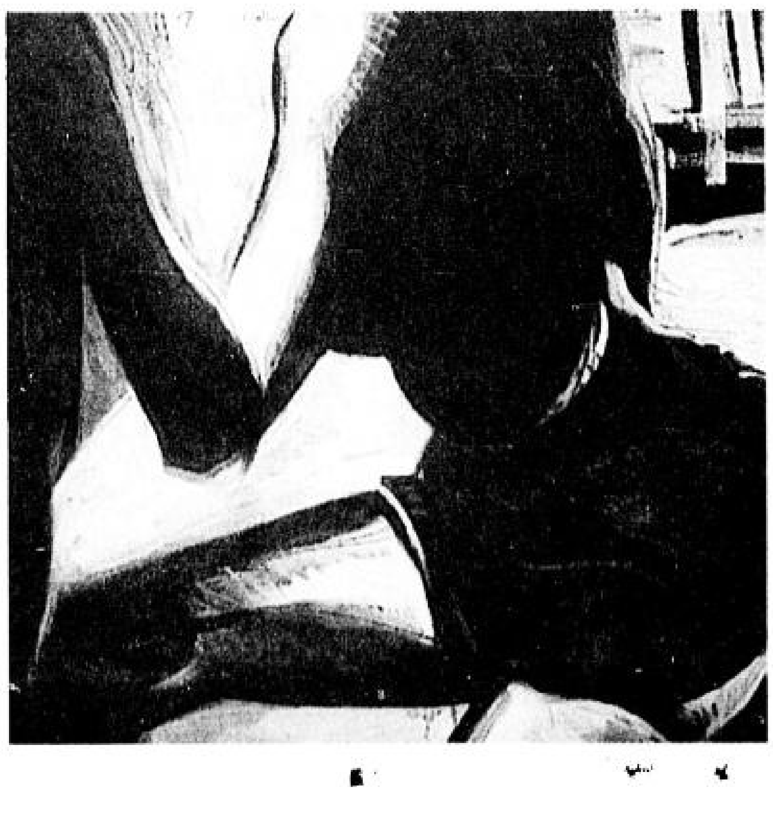
UGNAYAN/ p.D5


DANTE Castillo's "Mother and Child," at Gallery 139, Oct. 11-23


"HARLEQUIN Figure," by Juan Gomila, at Luz Gallery


"A NEW Way of Seeing," by Jo Madarang, at SM Art Center


A SESSION on freehand drawing is conducted at the University of Sto. Tomas by Prof. Deon Nacario for old and new members of Faber-Castell Little Masters Club.


EROTIC ART. Yasmin Almonte and Dave Lantz hold a duo show, "Tantric Dance," Oct. 19-Nov. 12 at the Hiraya Gallery (UN Avenue, Ermita, Manila). At right is Lantz's "Seventeen," oil on canvas.

Harrison Ford, 60, is dating
Calista Flockhart, 37.
Percy Gibson, 36, wed Joan Collins, 68.
Michael Douglas, 57, is married
to Catherine Zeta-Jones, 33.
Justin Timberlake, 21, is being linked
to Janet Jackson, 36.
Ben Affleck, 29, is romancing
Jennifer Lopez, 33.

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Evocation of the godlike in the common man

By Constantino C. Tejero

A DISTURBING art exhibit is Nick Pongan's "Men at Work," until tomorrow at The Big & Small Art Co., 4/L SM Megamall A. It disturbs as much for its imagery as for its timing.

First, it is disturbing for the fact that this should only be the first solo exhibit of a 40-year-old, much-awarded artist. Second, it disturbs for its unlikely appearance a few weeks before the holiday season.

The imagery is disturbing for its blend of realism and surrealism, and the nature of the subject, but also for the hues that border between neon and earth tones, the fine definition of bright and dark.

On the floor of the gallery are arranged a faded blue sleeveless shirt with the signage "SLOW DOWN MEN AT WORK," draped on wooden beams nailed together and formed into a cross, a concrete-encrusted spade with a red handle, a hammer with a yellow handle. The symbolism is blunt enough.

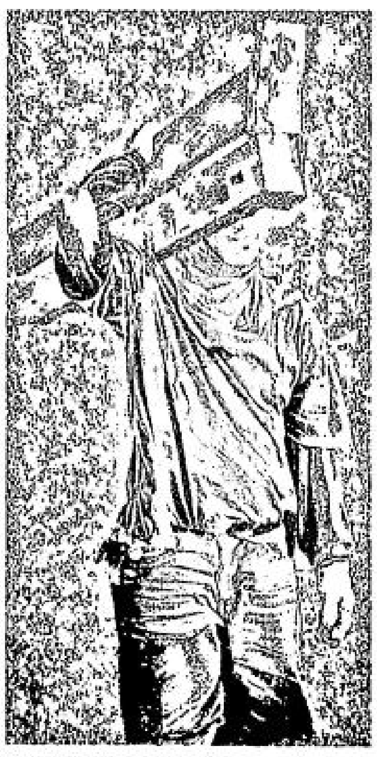
But as soon as the eyes wander up to the gallery walls, the viewer is shaken to realize that these paintings are less a pictorial equivalent of angry communist rhetoric than a dramatic take on the Passion.

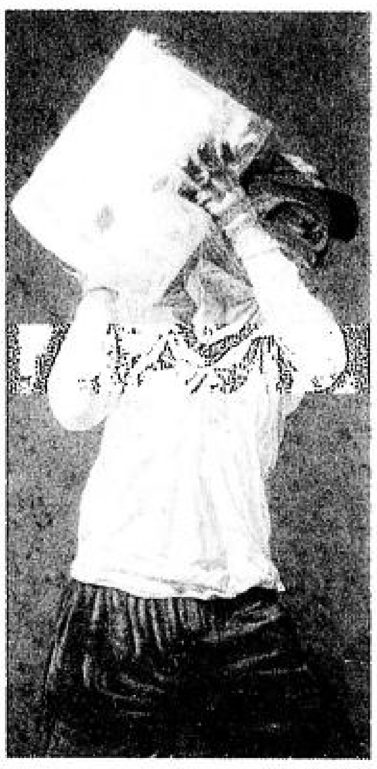
Remarkable colorism

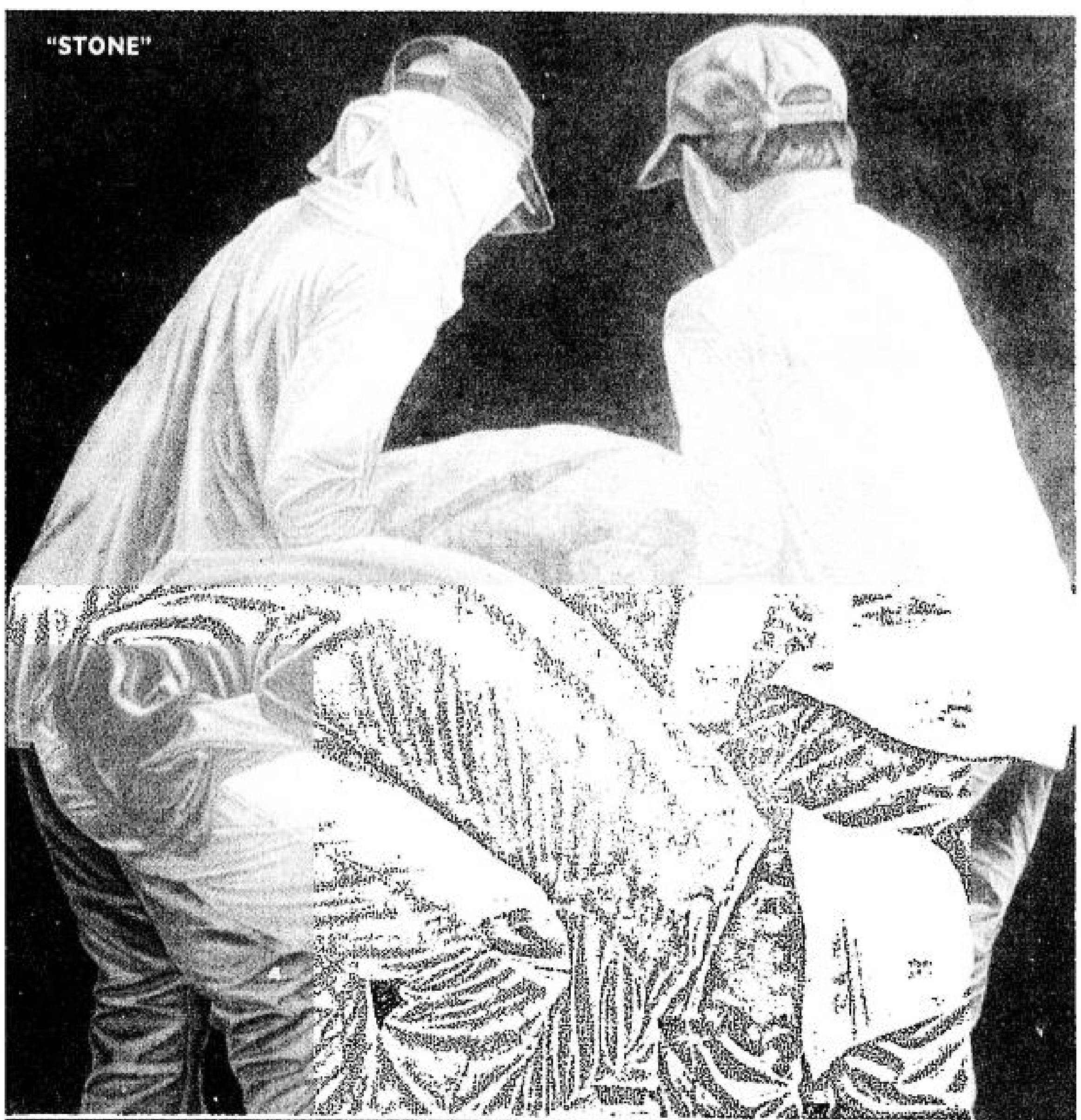
These are eight pieces in mixed media (oil, acrylic and clay) on canvas and two smaller pieces of oil on board, rendered in Lenten hues. They portray laborers doing what appears to be construction work, though nothing could be seen of the construction site. What are vivid are the materials of their job and the various attitudes of toil.

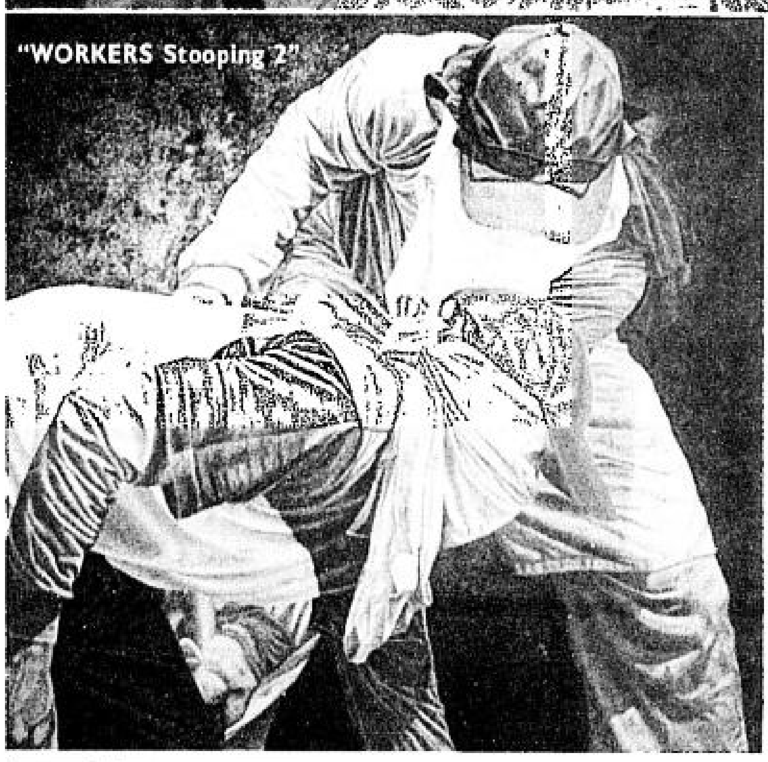
Most of the time their faces cannot even be seen, concealed as they are by caps, hats, shirts wrapped around the heads as protective coverings or masks. Downcast eyes and brown patches of skin peek from pieces of clothing that cover them from head to foot. What the viewer is actually looking at are not human beings so much as wrinkles on clothing defining the broken bodies of these men.

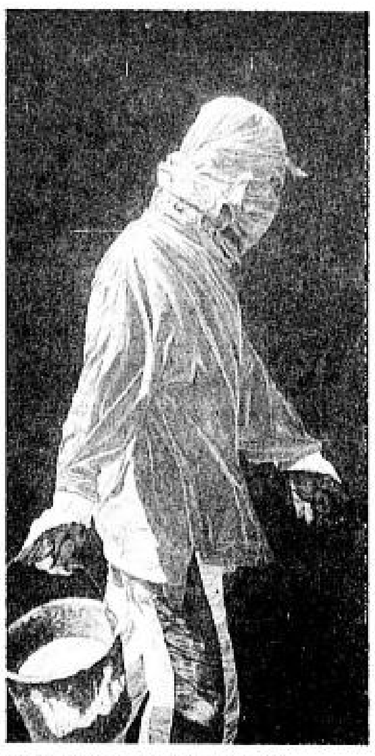
The figures are done with fine draftsmanship and composed in dramatic angles and cropping. This can be seen in "The Carpenter Carrying Forms," "Workers Stooping," "Stone."


"THE CARPENTER Carrying Forms"


"BURDEN"


"STONE"


"WORKERS Stooping 2"


"BUCKET of Concrete"

In all eight pieces, the artist shows himself an outstanding colorist. A thin swipe of clay blended with paint on the canvas adds the textural element appropriate for his subject and theme.

The rendering of the color is remarkable, such as violet against ochre, yellow against ox-blood, blue against deeper blue. Though there are bright patches, most of the time the pieces give the impression of having been rendered in monochrome.

More human term

The composition leaves much to the imagination. In "Workers Stooping," for example, we see men toiling but the cropping and blocking of their figures render what they are doing practically unseen. Is one man pouring concrete? Is another picking a stone?

In the largest of the pieces "Men at Work," 122 cm x 213 cm, we see a larger tableau of eight figures against a red background carrying sacks of cement, pushing a wheelbarrow of gravel and sand, hammering. But then, all but one of the faces are covered. Who are these men?

They look like *penitentes* to us, those flagellants who cover their faces and inflict pain upon themselves during the *cuaresma*. It could be that the artist is here rendering in more human term the tragedy of Golgotha, as most of their postures suggest the Way of the Cross. Though the masses are shown as an anonymous and faceless entity, still there emerges the pathos of being human.

Nick Pongan, who hails from Zarraga, Iloilo, is a civil engineer by profession. He took up art studies at Philippine Women's University, and has received awards and citations from the art competitions of Shell, Metrobank National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

His first one-man exhibit is as good an indication as any that he is an artist who can attain greater heights. Aside from the obvious technical skill, the triumph of artistry here is in his finding the spiritual in the ordinary, evoking the godlike from the commonplace.

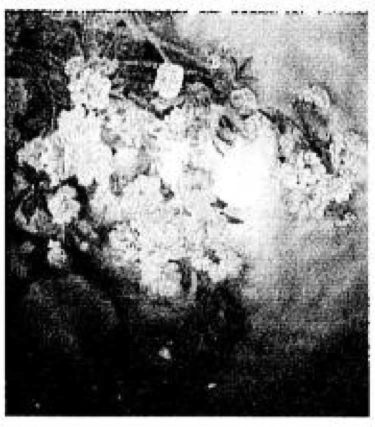
Ugnayan '80 at Big & Small

From page D4

oil on canvas showing selected places in Europe and America.

A THREE-MAN show, "Retablo," featuring the works of contemporary visual artists from Angono, Rizal—Michael de Guzman, Arturo Sanchez and Frederick Sausa—is on show until Oct. 19, in Second Gallery, 217 Doña Aurora St., Angono, Rizal. Call (0917) 953-1104.

"TUGAHAN nga Ladawan san Isla san Samar Phase IV-Calbayog," a group painting exhibit of the Calbayog Art Association Inc., will open tomorrow at Handumanan, Museo de Calbayog. It coincides with the Calbayog City Charter Day on Oct. 16. Featured artists are Raul Isidro, Manding Toleza, Mercy Garcia, Noel Sagayap, Val Villanueva, Danny Celum, Aris Ventures, Jun Salurio, Rustom Villamor, Jun Sabile, Willie Labana and Florence Cinco. The exhibit will run until Oct. 30.


"HOPE Blossoms," by Irene Araneta, at SM Megamall Art Center

THE SOON-TO-RISE art center in Negros, Balay Tallambong: The Cojuangco Museum and Art Center, is launching a nationwide logo design contest. Balay Tallambong is an old Hiligaynon term for art house. The contest is open to all Filipinos, except employees of the Carlos Cojuangco Foundation Inc. and the office of Rep. Carlos Cojuangco. Participants can send as many entries as they want. Entries will be judged in terms of their suitability to the mission-vision statement of the art center. Deadline for submission of entries is Nov. 15. Call 951-4676 or the Negros Occidental office at (034) 460-2510.

RENOWNED *kulintang* expert Aga Mayo Butocan will conduct a workshop on "Introducing Kulintang" for those teaching Philippine music or interested in *kulintang* performances, at the Asian Institute for Liturgy and Music (AILM), Oct. 24-26. Morning sessions will be devoted to *kulintang*. In the afternoon, JJ Ganibe will conduct workshops on Northern Philippine music—gongs and bamboo instruments. A discount will be given to those who register and pay before Oct. 15. Call the AILM at 722-5554/722-8575 (Luz). AILM is at the Cathedral Heights, E. Rodriguez Sr. Boulevard, QC.

METROBANK Foundation is holding the Young Painters' Annual National Painting Competition exhibit at the G/F Lobby of the Metrobank Plaza on Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati. Cutting the ceremonial ribbon to open the exhibit are renowned artist Anita Magsaysay-Ho and Cultural Center of the Philippines president and chair of the board of judges Nestor Jardin. Assisting them are Metrobank Foundation vice chair Antonio S. Abacan Jr. (third from left), president Placido L. Mapa Jr. and treasurer Mary Vy Ty; and Mary Jane Abacan, Eve Sarmiento and Lovely Romulo. The exhibit features the competition's winning entries.

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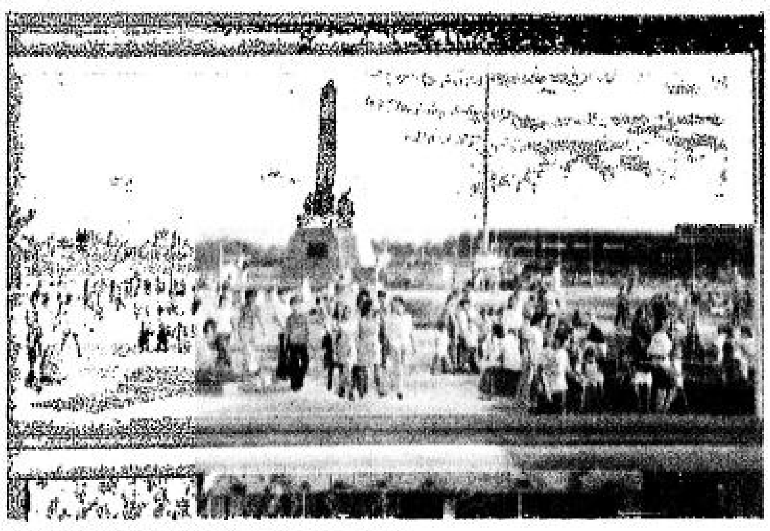
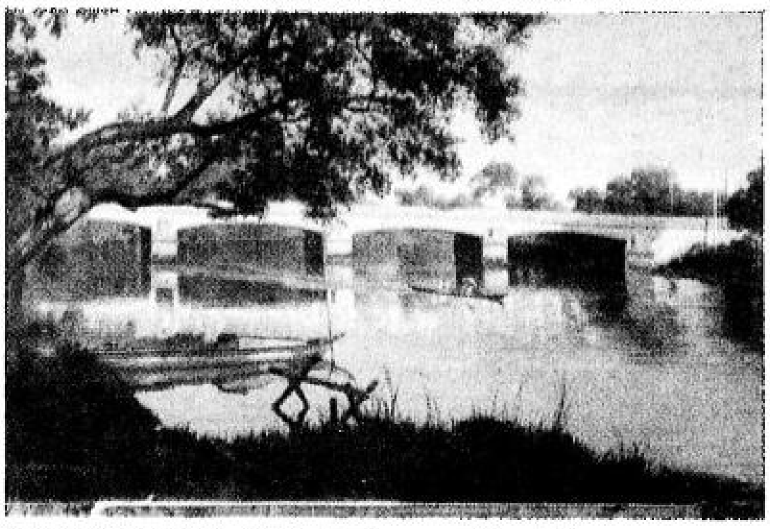
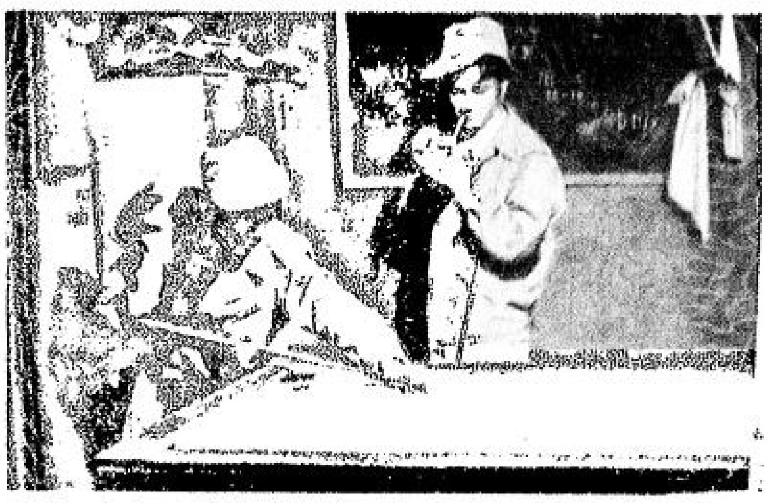
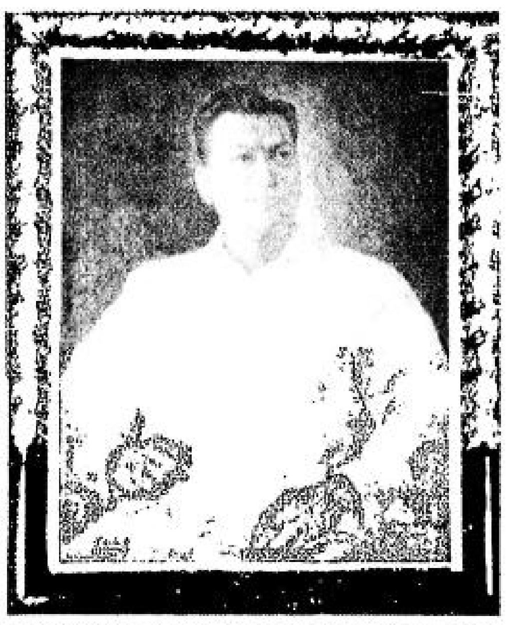
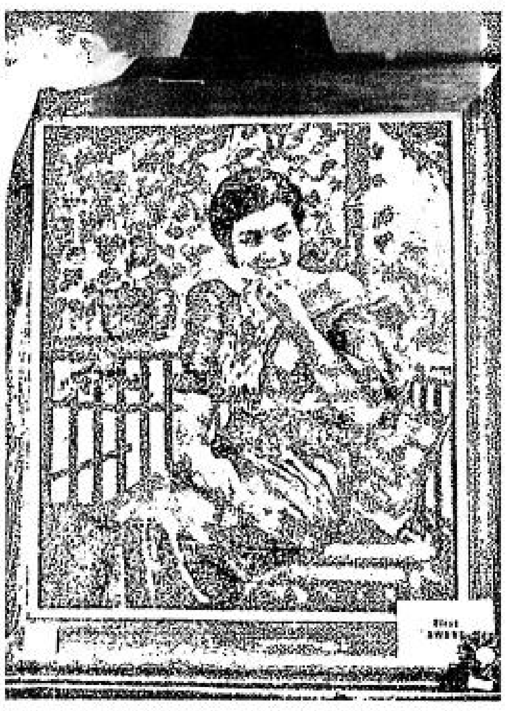

POSTCARD-PRETTY Luneta scene

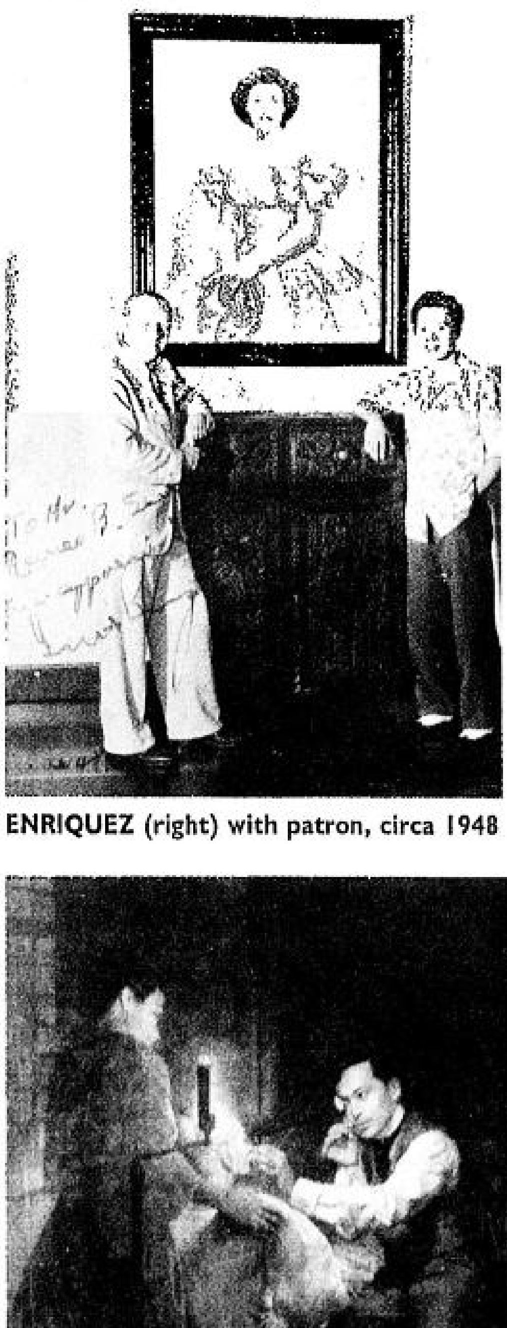

MODERNIZATION. Idyllic rural scene with a difference


THIS painting of billiard players shows Enriquez's Tondo sensibility.

The Amorsolo of portrait painting


PORTRAIT of President Ramon Magsaysay


"YOUNG Filipina," won first prize in the 1951 art contest sponsored by San Miguel. Note the contrast between the sampaguita and the floral print.


ENRIQUEZ (right) with patron, circa 1948

From page D1

Enriquez's famous portrait of the hero examining the failing eyesight of his mother. At the Marikina Shoe Expo Complex, one sees the much-ballyhooed portrait of Her Imeldific, the seam of her exquisitely embroidered terno barely covering her expensive shoes. In the halls and corridors of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals, one sees the lifelike portraits of the late justices also by Enriquez. In addition, on the lobby of the Philippine General Hospital hang the portraits of the hospital's directors done by Enriquez.

Politics

A stroke of politics may yet revive Enriquez's fortunes. With the renovation of the Malacañang Museum, the fading legacy of Enriquez may yet be arrested and, who knows, get rehabilitated. Take a look at the presidential portraits that Enriquez had painted with the deftness of biblical creation—of Elpidio Quirino, Ramon Magsaysay, and—Diosdado Macapagal.

Yes, Enriquez painted that portrait that usually appears in totemic magnificence behind President Macapagal-Arroyo in her television addresses and advertisements. It shows the Poor Boy from Lubao at his most flattering: slim, smart, smooth-browed and handsome. Enriquez's kin say the late President was a frequent client and that the Macapagal family owns one of the biggest collections of Enriquez's works.

The Macapagal portrait shows Enriquez's strengths. It shows his exacting eye and fluid line. It shows his talent for rendering his subjects in graceful calm. Although in true pictorial fashion, the subject stares back at the viewer, in some instances, as in the Magsaysay portrait, the subject is looking elsewhere. The Magsaysay portrait has the effect of endowing the subject a certain dreamlike, intellectual quality, perhaps Enriquez's way of checking the late President's image as a champion of the masses, somebody who was forever in the thick of the action.

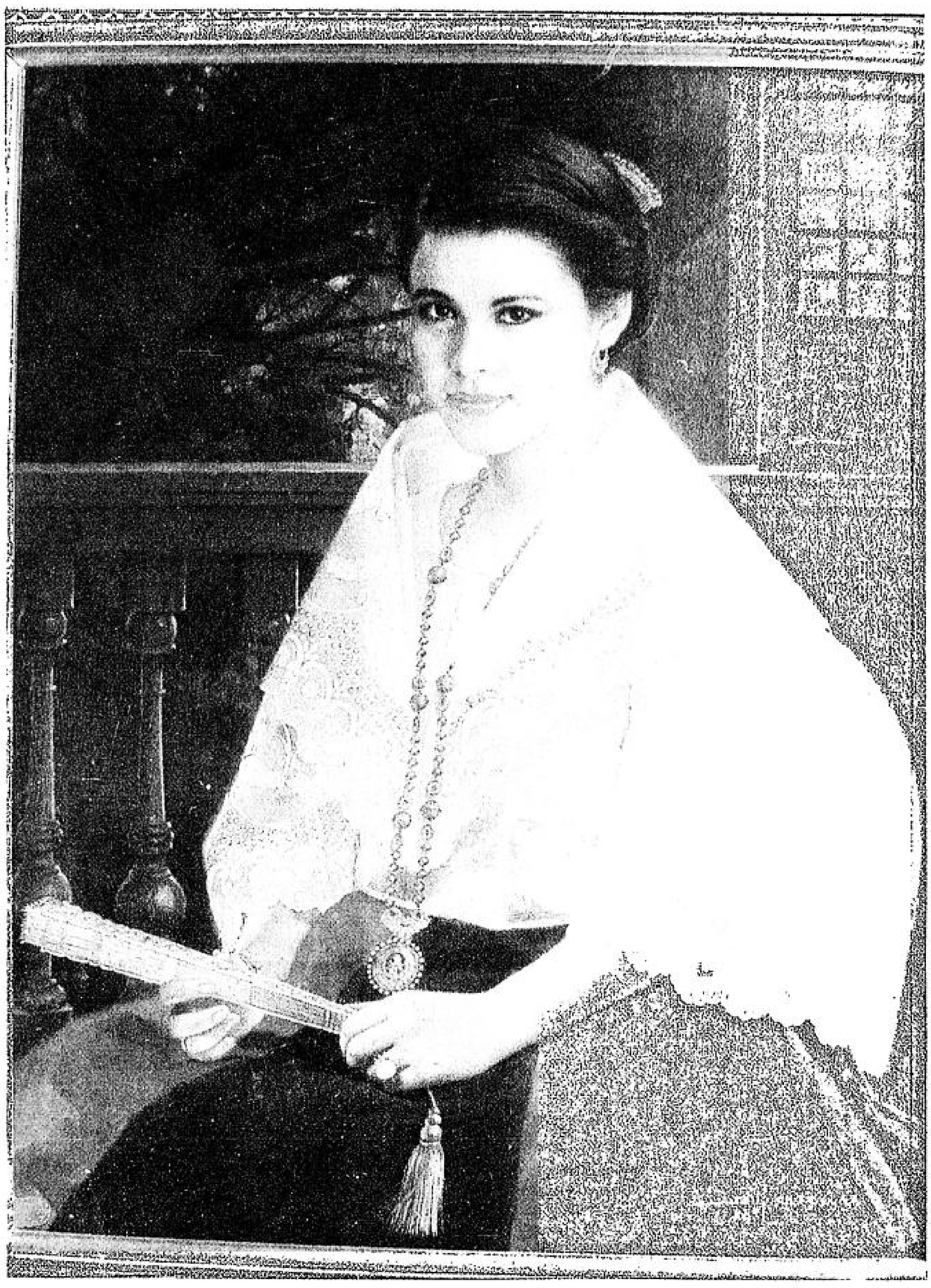
It is strange that Enriquez showed prominently Macapagal's seat, as if referring to the gallant invitation of outgoing President Carlos P. Garcia as he led Macapagal to the presidential throne: "Try this on for size." It shows the only Philippine president to have come from dirt-poor roots as comfortable with the power that destiny has vested in him. It shows that the presidency is for everyone, regardless of social classes.

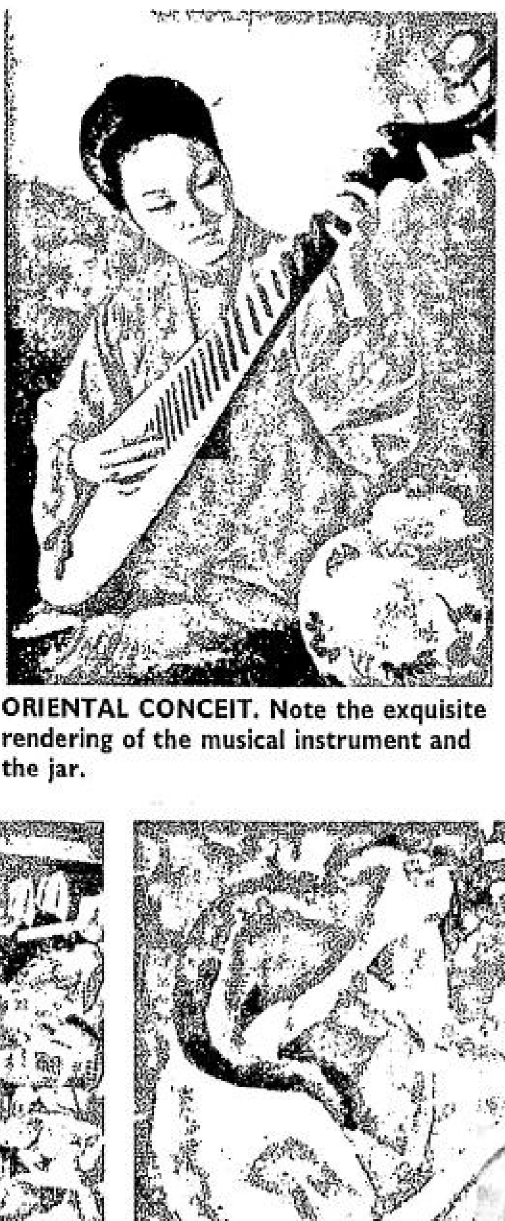
Ingenuity

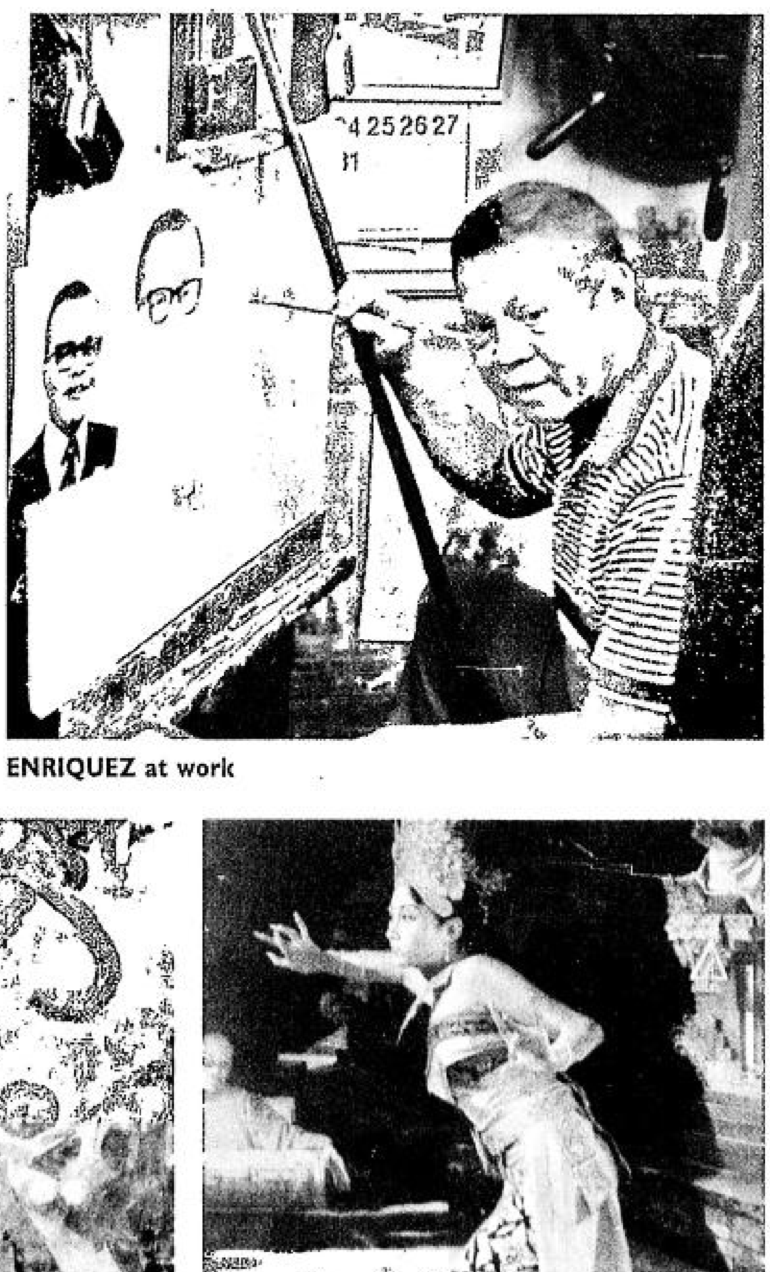
Enriquez displayed the same ingenuity in his other portraits. Some of them are presented in costumes—in callado terno, in Chinese opera finery, in a Thai dancer's attire, in Ifugao regalia. We do not know if the clients themselves chose to be portrayed as such, but Enriquez seems to have been playful enough either to oblige them or to pose them in fancy settings. Poor cataloguing through the years means that the real identities of the subjects may have been lost forever. (The Enriquez family complains that certain researchers have not returned the archives it had kept to map the artist's evolution. The files are meager because Enriquez was publicity-shy and barely kept records of his works.)

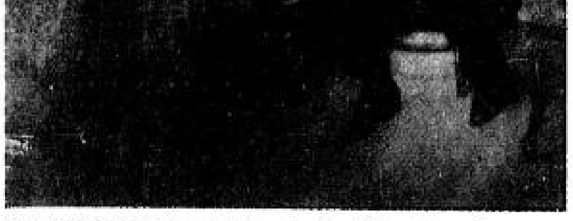
But judging from what remains of the archives and catalogue, the bulk of Enriquez's works are not portraits, but landscapes and even nudes. It is not without reason that his works have been often confused with Amorsolo's. In

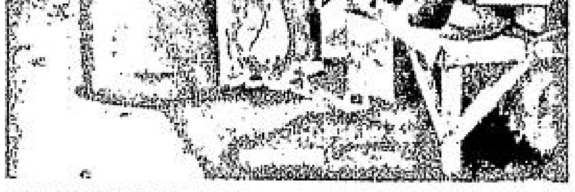
THE AMORSOLO/ p.D7

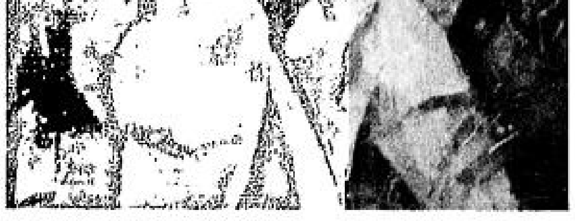

RICH, EXACTING DETAILS. The rendering of the callado is particularly ingenious.

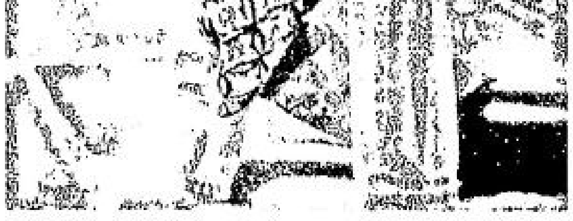

ORIENTAL CONCEIT. Note the exquisite rendering of the musical instrument and the jar.


ENRIQUEZ at work


FAMOUS Rizal painting in Fort Santiago


MARKET SCENE. It is paintings like this that make Enriquez the precursor of new realism.


MODERNIST experiment


THAI DANCER. Note the animated rendering.

The Amorsolo of portrait painting

From page D6

the works of both is the same penchant for idealizing the rustic, the same brilliant attempt to capture the elusive quality of the Philippine sun. The influence of the older maestro on his works cannot be discounted. Enriquez went to the University of the Philippines School of Fine Arts in the 1940s where Amorsolo was an instructor and later, director.

But perhaps the more primordial influence on Enriquez was his father, who ran the Amor Studio on Azcarraga Street and Rizal Avenida before the war. According to his daughter, Criselda E. Hachero, it was there while doing foto-oleos (enhancing portraits with artistic painting) that Enriquez resolved to become an artist, to the distress of his mom who had wanted him to become an architect. One could find a connection between the foto-oleos he did in his father's studios and the portraits he made of the high and the mighty. The same principles applied: enhancement, animation, flattery and vanity. But even that early, Enriquez preferred landscapes. He admired the genre paintings of Crispin V. Lopez, according to Hachero.

Landscapes and genre paintings other than portraits were Enriquez's first ticket to success. He won the Art Association of the Philippines annual contests in 1950 and 1953, and the San Miguel Brewery contest in 1951, with the painting gracing the beer company's calendar (he was to make the calendars of San Miguel for 15 years). But he also won prizes for his semi-portraits of the Virgin Mary ("The Anunciation") in the Marian Centennial National Contest in 1954 and of Jose Rizal in the Rizal Centennial International Art Contest in 1960.

Enriquez's winning entries made him the toast of society. He established his studio in the 1950s on M.H. Del Pilar Street in Ermita, Manila, across the famous Gaiety Theater. Much later, he moved to Mabini Street near the Malate Church. The studio was a landmark of sorts especially for Manila old timers, until he was convinced by a family worried about his frail age and declining health to move with them to BF Homes in Parañaque in the early 1990s.

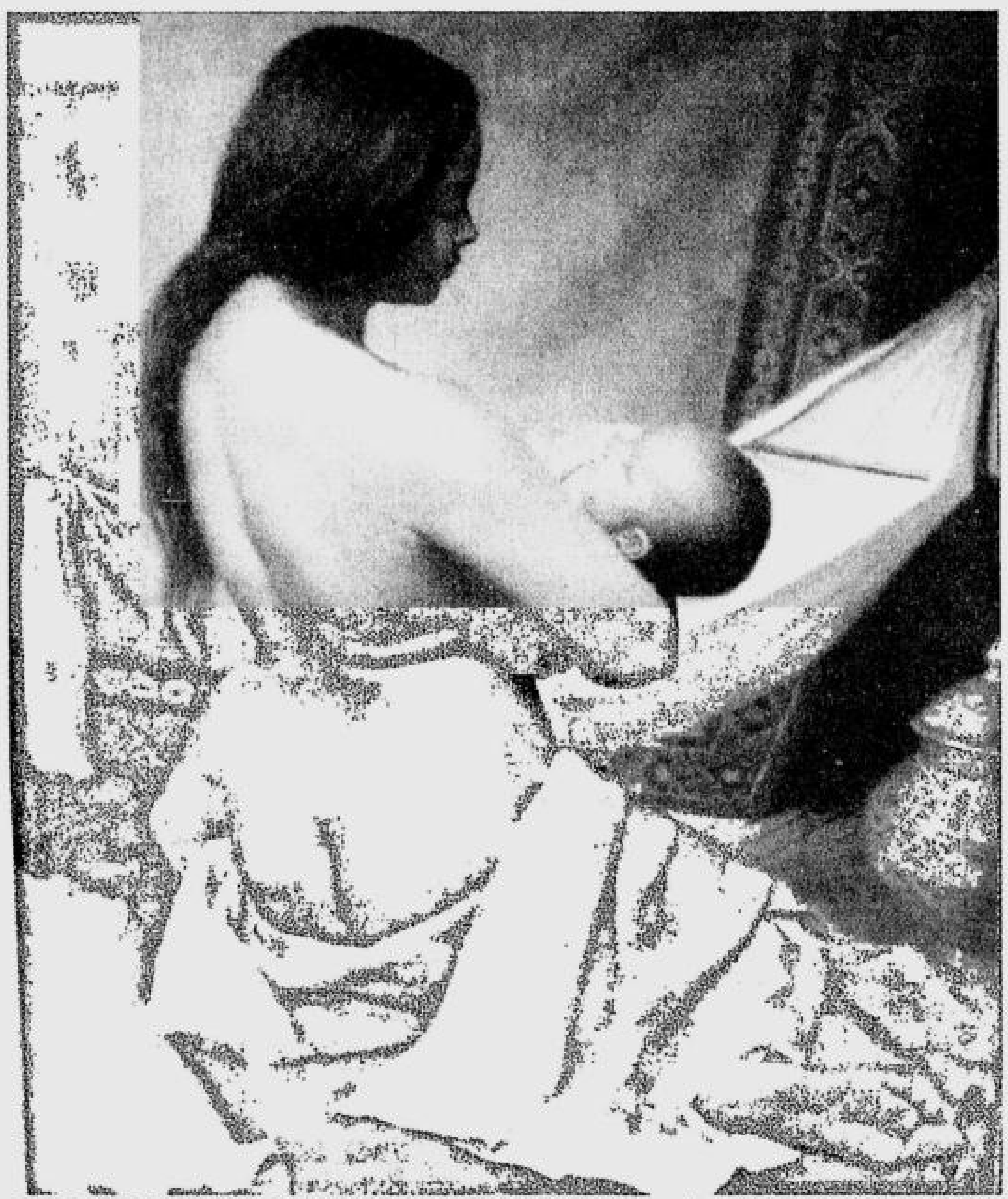
Urban sensibility

Perhaps what distinguishes Enriquez from Amorsolo was his quest for more humdrum, less idyllic scenes (a tranquil seller of native hats in the market, a family squat on the floor, praying, an old woman sewing, and modernization invading the bucolic in the form of a spanking new bridge spanning a rural river). While Amorsolo went back deep into pre-Hispanic Philippines to idealize his subjects, Enriquez, in the true fashion of the photojournalist, recorded the urban contemporary, its dirt and grime. He even recorded such growing urban pastimes as billiards, giving his subjects a certain hard-edged realism. Moreover, Enriquez experimented with chiaroscuro. Particularly in the urban genre paintings, his explorations show a naturalistic bent.

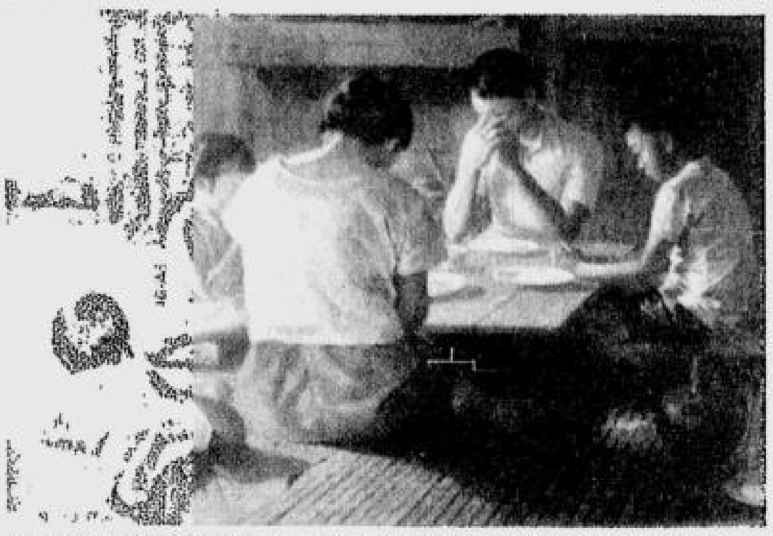
Because he was educated at UP, the bastion of conservatism in the visual arts at that time, Enriquez frowned on modernism. But since he had modernist friends such as Vicente Manansala and Cesar Legazpi, he experimented in the modernist vein while not exactly discarding classic genre subjects such as the nude and the pastorale. Perhaps in recognition of his ambidextrous craftsmanship and artistic open-mindedness, Legazpi chose Enriquez to do his portrait.

Looking at his artistic legacy, it is easy to see Enriquez as the precursor of the hyperrealists and new realists in the rigorous realism and the naturalist urban bias of his works. Meanwhile, the elitist portraits remain as records of the vanity of personal power and achievement; ultimately, they are chronicles of the capriciousness of their subjects. They are fantasy rather than realism. The ultimate value of Enriquez's vision is in his portraits of the ordinary, rendered in an art nothing less than extraordinary.

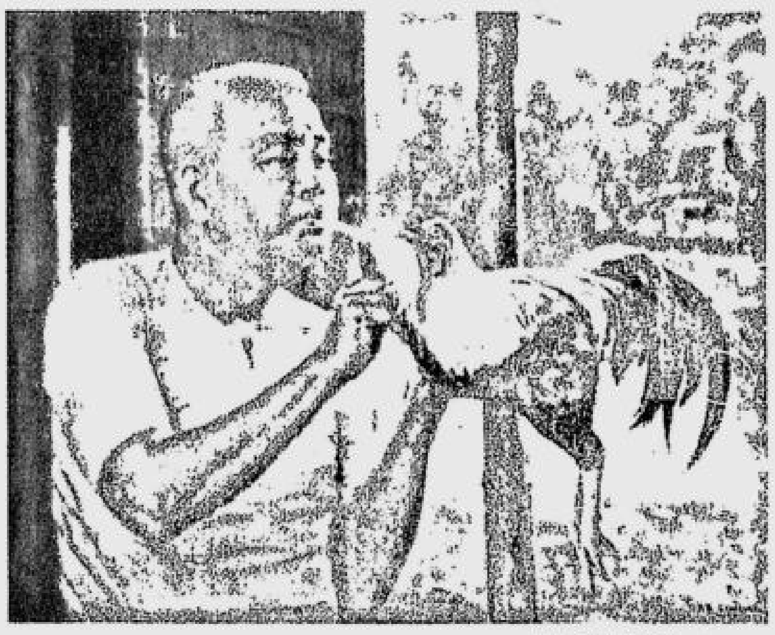
The Enriquez family is planning an exhibit of the works of Romeo Borja Enriquez. Collectors may want to loan their works for the exhibit. They may contact Jun de Leon or Pin Reyes at 895-1909, 897-4695 and 931-7802.



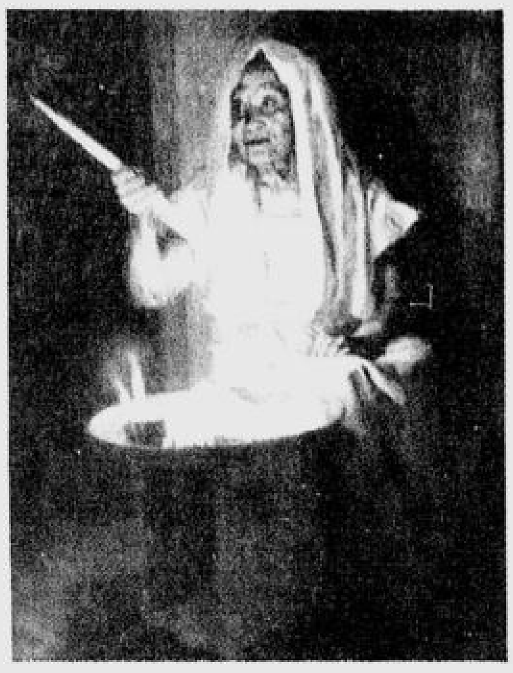
CLASSICAL Mother and Child is given a nude rendering and an ethnic motif.



MASTERFUL COMPOSITION. While the family says grace, the baby goes its way to the door, bathed with light and grace.



ANOTHER instance of Enriquez's graphic refinement. Note the smoke that issues from the cockfighting enthusiast's lips.



ONE of Enriquez's interesting chiaroscuro studies

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Sum Insured	P159,411	P637,644	P120,452	P481,808	P91,414	P365,656	P68,950	P172,375	P50,421	P126,053	P36,314	P90,785	P25,541	P63,853

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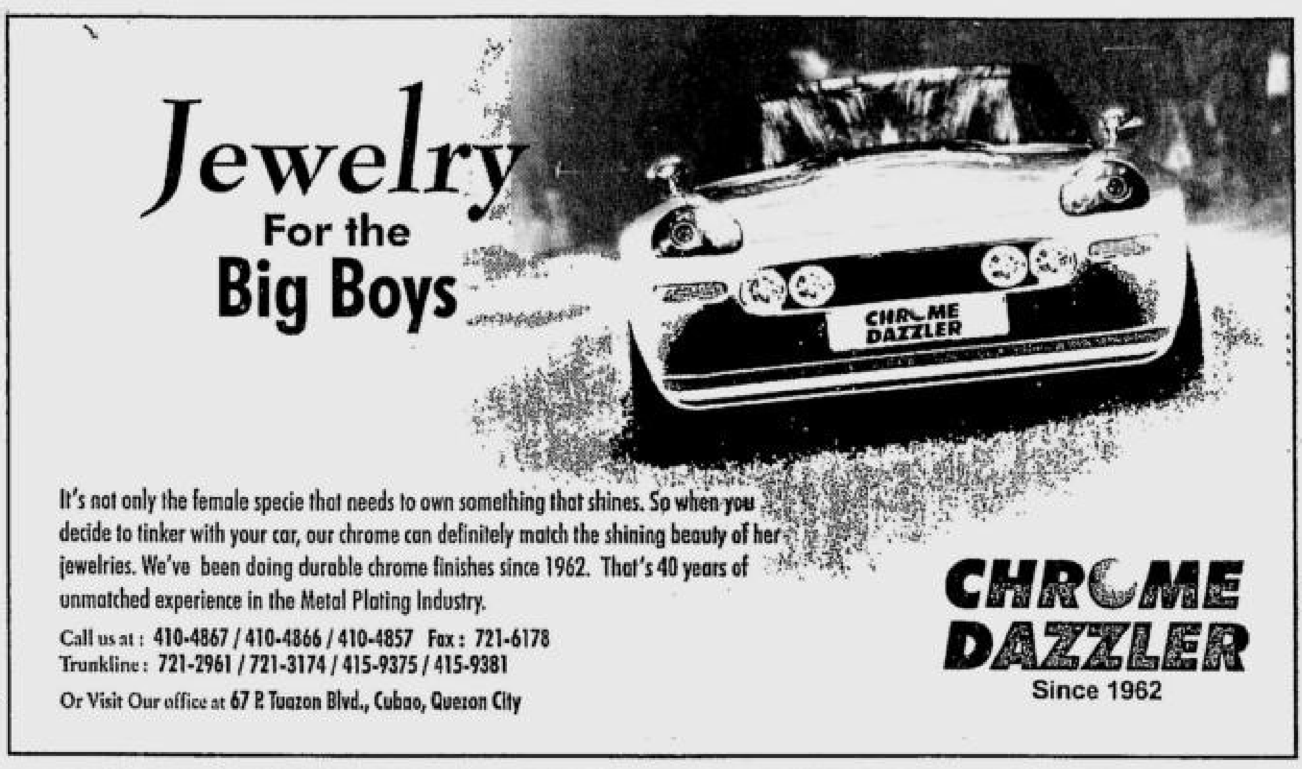
THE AWARD-WINNING UST Singers with conductor Prof. Fidel Gener Calalang Jr. (front right, standing)

UST Singers sweep European choral festivals

Story on page E2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DRAMATIS Personae's "Rashomon"

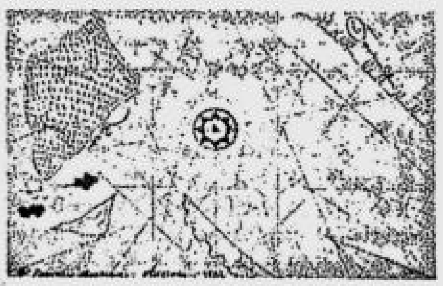
Truth? Whose truth?

SEE PAGE E4

PIANO prodigy Lang Lang

Symphony tries to win back audiences

SEE PAGE E4



16TH-CENTURY map

Portuguese festival features ancient maps

SEE PAGE E2

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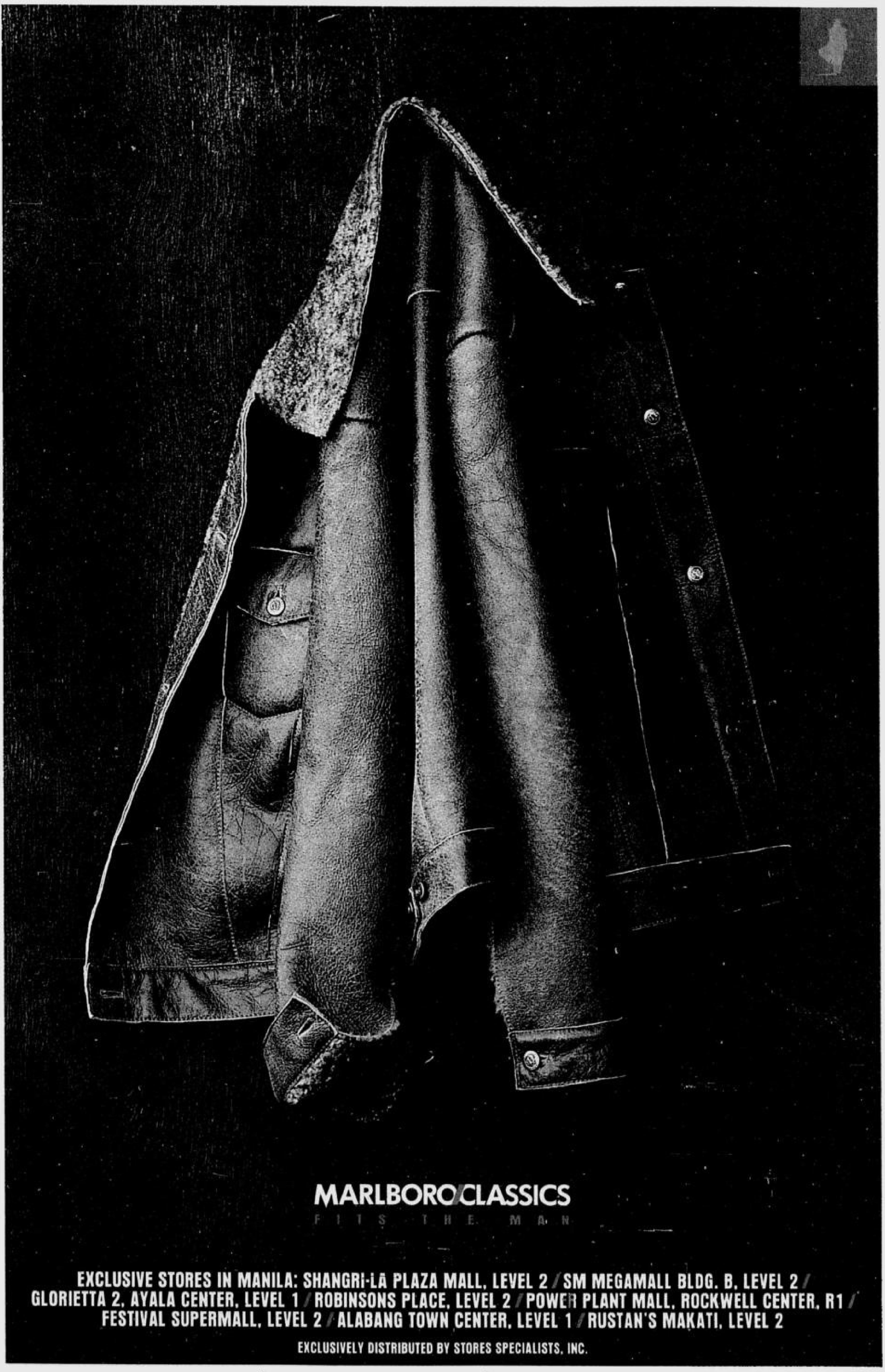

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Berliners flock to performance of UST Singers

By Sulpicio M. Confiado

ARCHBISHOP Giovanni Lajolo, papal nuncio to Germany and dean of the diplomatic corps (second from left), was guest of honor of the special concert. Welcoming him are the author, Philippine Embassy charge d'affaires Joselito Jimeno and Msgr. Thomas Gullickson.

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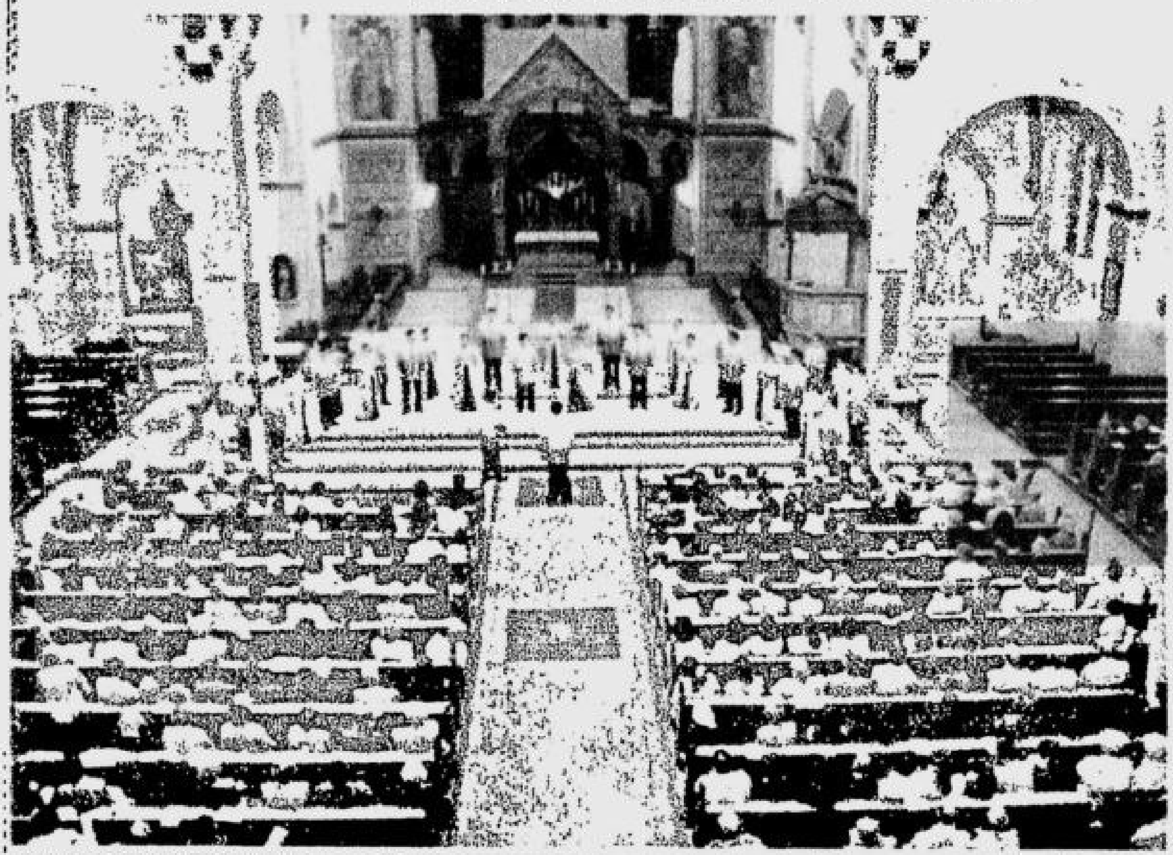

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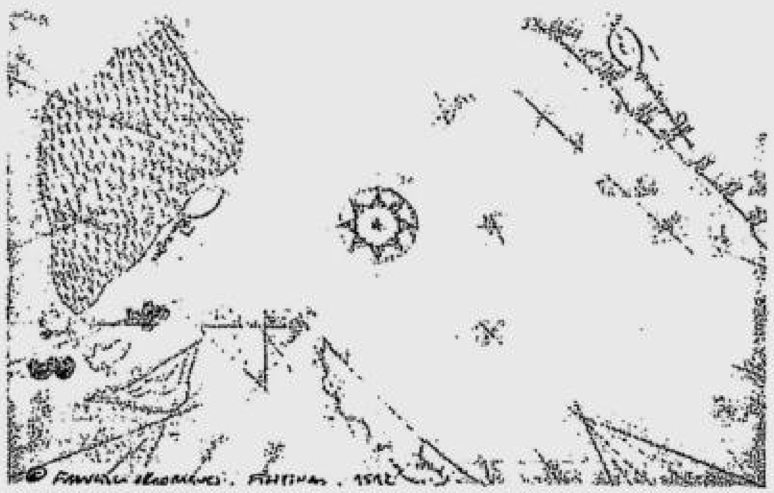


16TH-CENTURY map

PORTUGUESE FESTIVAL FEATURES ANCIENT MAPS

On Oct. 17, an exhibition of ancient maps, "The First Portuguese Maps and Sketches of Southeast Asia and the Philippines," will open at the Metropolitan Museum as part of the ongoing Portuguese Cultural Festival. The exhibition consists of 50 works made between 1512 and 1571 by Portuguese pilots and cartographers. Portuguese Ambassador Joao Caetano da Silva says the show "offers new images and perspectives of Southeast Asia and of the Philippines. The exhibition illustrates and puts into historical perspective the adventures and voyages of the Portuguese in Southeast Asia in the 16th century."

Tanghalan stages the adventures of 'Pinocchio'

TANGHALANG Pilipino stages Carlo Collodi's "Pinocchio" this month.

The well-loved children's classic with a Pinoy twist runs at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Studio Theater (Tanghalang Huseng Batute) on Oct. 19 and 26, with performances at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

A sure delight for children of all ages, "Pinocchio" offers family fun with large and colorful costumes, plus a whimsical set design inspired by pop-up books and Jack-in-the-boxes that open up to enchanting and surprising new worlds. Filled with songs, fantasy and humor, this playful production teaches young audiences values about life, love and honesty. Audiences aged 3-93 are invited to join the magical adventures of our favorite wooden puppet in his quest to become a real boy.

Featuring the Tanghalang Pilipino Actors' Co., "Pinocchio" is directed by Herbert Go (TP associate artistic director), with Filipino adaptation and production design by George de Jesus III.

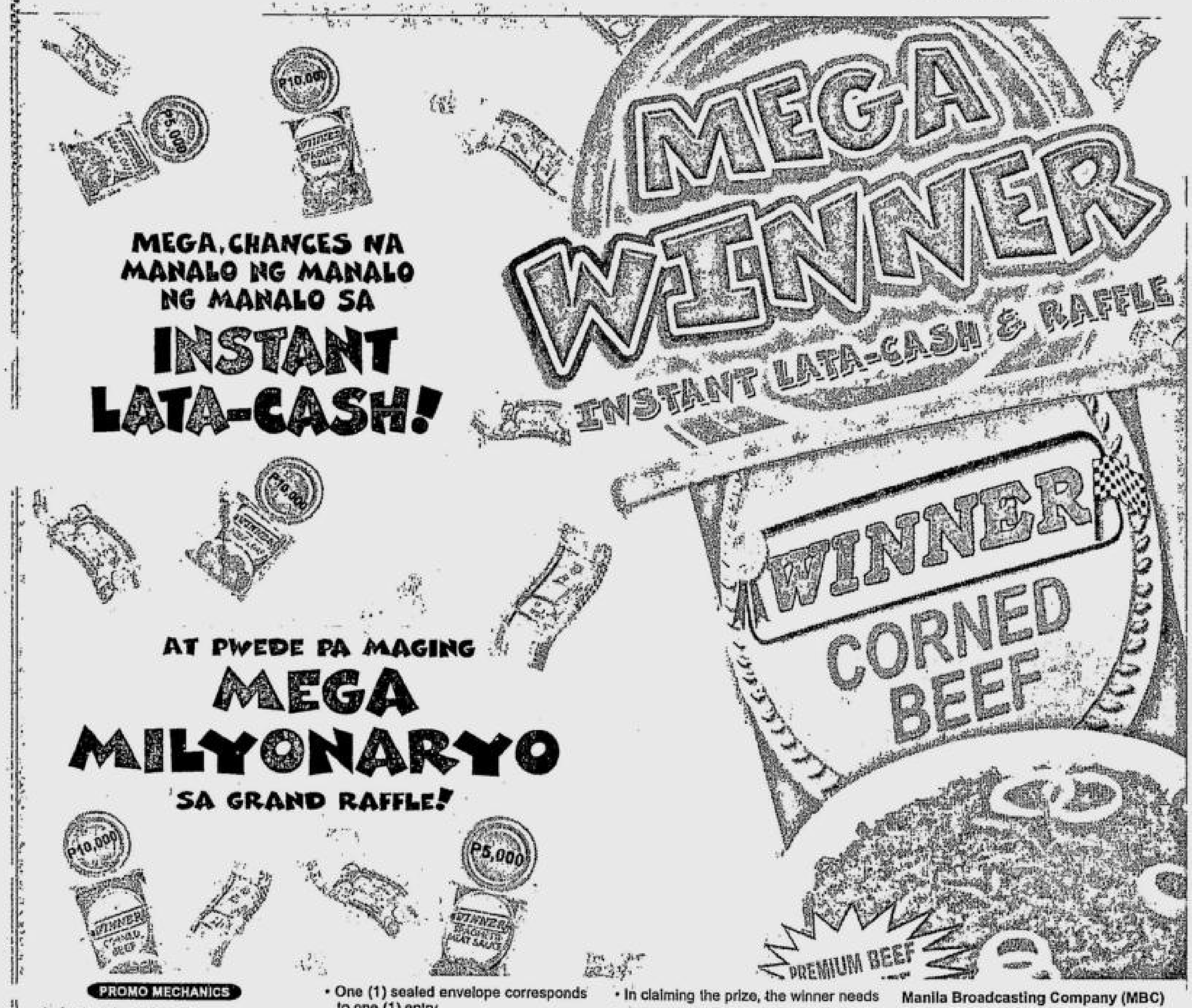
"Pinocchio" is open for sponsorships and bookings for special performances. Interested schools, businesses and organizations may call Tanghalang Pilipino at 832-3661 or CCP at 832-1125 local 1620/1621. Tickets are also available at the CCP Box Office, National Book Store and Ticketworld. Call 891-5610.

Samar dance scholars hold performance

THE SAMAR Dance Scholars, through the sponsorship of Rep. Eddie Nachura, had its initial presentation on Oct. 12 at the St. Bartholomew Church and Sacred Heart College in Catbalogan, Samar. The presentation coincided with the celebration of Samar's Del Rosario, where Chit Nachura was the *hermana mayor*.

Odon Sabarre, the first artist in residence of Region 8, is the trainer and artistic director of the Nachura Dance Scholarship Program. He trains and supervises the young dance scholars, who get free training in ballet, jazz and interpretative dancing, and monthly stipend. The project is in coordination with Samar State Polytechnic College.

Sabarre holds dance classes at the People's Center School of Dance in Tacloban City. Schedules are: ballet and jazz, 9-10:30 a.m., Saturday, and aerobic jazz, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday. Fitness at the Park, a free fitness program for young and old, sponsored by Gov. Remedios Petilla, is held 6:30-7:30 a.m. at the Capitol building every Saturday.



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- Then write on the envelope the promo title:

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- Send in as many valid entries as you can for more chances of winning.
- Deadline for submission of entries is on 31 December 2002. All mailed entries should be postmarked on or before 31 December 2002.
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- Winners of the Instant Lata-Cash Promo can also join the raffle draw.
- Grand draw will be held on 18 January 2003, 4:00pm at Virginia Food, Inc. head office, 840 G&L Building AS Fortuna St. Mandaue City Cebu.
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Berliners flock to performance of UST Singers

By Sulpicio M. Confiado

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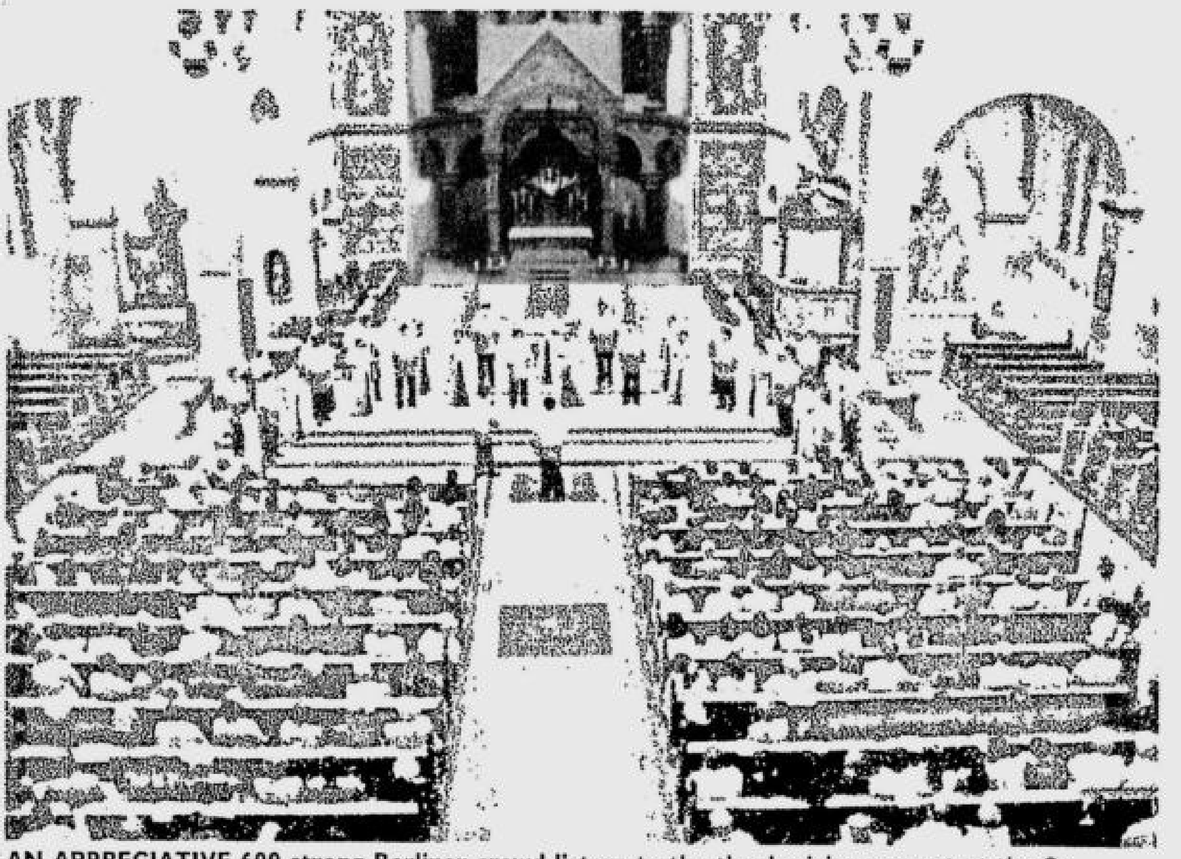

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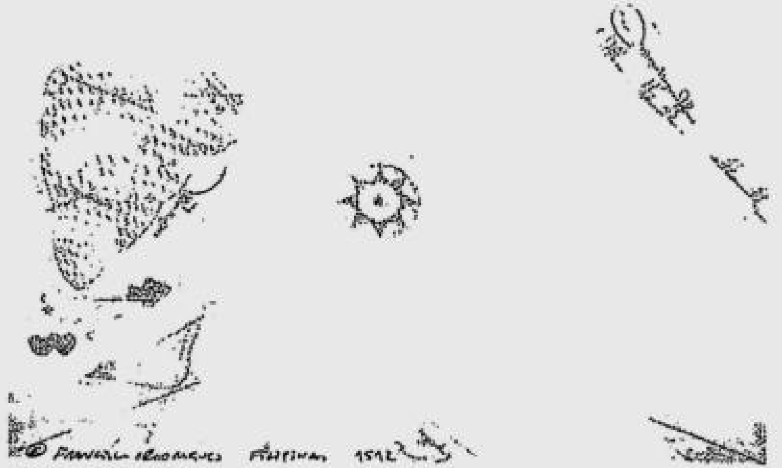

16TH-CENTURY map

PORTUGUESE FESTIVAL FEATURES ANCIENT MAPS

On Oct. 17, an exhibition of ancient maps, "The First Portuguese Maps and Sketches of Southeast Asia and the Philippines," will open at the Metropolitan Museum as part of the ongoing Portuguese Cultural Festival. The exhibition consists of 50 works made between 1512 and 1571 by Portuguese pilots and cartographers. Portuguese Ambassador Joao Caetano da Silva says the show "offers new images and perspectives of Southeast Asia and of the Philippines. The exhibition illustrates and puts into historical perspective the adventures and voyages of the Portuguese in Southeast Asia in the 16th century."

Tanghalan stages the adventures of 'Pinocchio'

TANGHALANG Pilipino stages Carlo Collodi's "Pinocchio" this month.

The well-loved children's classic with a Pinoy twist runs at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Studio Theater (Tanghalang Huseng Batute) on Oct. 19 and 26, with performances at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

A sure delight for children of all ages, "Pinocchio" offers family fun with large and colorful costumes, plus a whimsical set design inspired by pop-up books and Jack-in-the-boxes that open up to enchanting and surprising new worlds. Filled with songs, fantasy and humor, this playful production teaches young audiences values about life, love and honesty. Audiences aged 3-93 are invited to join the magical adventures of our favorite wooden puppet in his quest to become a real boy.

Featuring the Tanghalang Pilipino Actors' Co., "Pinocchio" is directed by Herbert Go (TP associate artistic director), with Filipino adaptation and production design by George de Jesus III.

"Pinocchio" is open for sponsorships and bookings for special performances. Interested schools, businesses and organizations may call Tanghalang Pilipino at 832-3661 or CCP at 832-1125 local 1620/1621. Tickets are also available at the CCP Box Office, National Book Store and Ticketworld. Call 891-5610.

Samar dance scholars hold performance

THE SAMAR Dance Scholars, through the sponsorship of Rep. Eddie Nachura, had its initial presentation on Oct. 12 at the St. Bartholomew Church and Sacred Heart College in Catbalogan, Samar. The presentation coincided with the celebration of Samar's Del Rosario, where Chit Nachura was the *hermana mayor*.

Odon Sabarre, the first artist in residence of Region 8, is the trainer and artistic director of the Nachura Dance Scholarship Program. He trains and supervises the young dance scholars, who get free training in ballet, jazz and interpretative dancing, and monthly stipend. The project is in coordination with Samar State Polytechnic College.

Sabarre holds dance classes at the People's Center School of Dance in Tacloban City. Schedules are: ballet and jazz, 9-10:30 a.m., Saturday, and aerobic jazz, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday. Fitness at the Park, a free fitness program for young and old, sponsored by Gov. Remedios Petilla, is held 6:30-7:30 a.m. at the Capitol building every Saturday.

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- Send in as many valid entries as you can for more chances of winning.
- Deadline for submission of entries is on 31 December 2002. All mailed entries should be postmarked on or before 31 December 2002.
- Prize is P1,000,000.00 for one (1) winner, tax free.
- Winners of the Instant Lata-Cash Promo can also join the raffle draw.
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- The winner will have to fill up a redemption slip prior to claiming his/her prize
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CHILEAN Ambassador Carmen Lynam, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Franklin Ebdane and Papal Nuncio Antonio Franco

JOSE Rodriguez, Stella Marquez Araneta and Nena Casimiro

LAWYER Ricardo Puno and Singaporean Ambassador Jacky Foo

LAOS Ambassador Phiane and Joomchit Philakone

French bazaar, Chilean feast, and widows and widowers' treat

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

KESSARA Arnold

PERUVIAN Ambassador Jorge Soto

CHILEAN Ambassador Lynam, Spanish Ambassador Tomas Pantoja and Tessie Luz

MYRNA Borromeo and Dr. Jaime Laya

IT MUST be because it's that time of the year when the weather is cooler that people are more in a mood to party—calendars are again full of events. As early as September, French Ambassador **Renee Veyret** and Fr. **Pierre Tritz**'s of Erda opened a mini bazaar of French products sale and exhibit organized by Filipino-French NGOs at Rockwell for the benefit of different charities. Then there was Catholic Women's Club's Noche de Bailes Latinos—the ladies' big moneymaker for their endless causes—with president **Lulu Castañeda** attending rehearsals every night prior, and let's not forget **Linda Panlilio**'s launch at the Polo Club of her book of essays by widows and widowers, titled ironically "From This Day Forward," which as you all know, are part of the words said in a wedding ceremony.

Chilean Ambassador **Carmen Lynam** held a well-attended *vin d'honneur* to celebrate Chile's National Day at the InterCon with well-wishers from the diplomatic corps and the Filipino business community in attendance. The big question on everyone's mind was whether we were going to war or not with Iraq. On the other hand, isn't the Philippines at war on several fronts already? You know, against kidnappers, drugs, terrorists, peace and order, politics, poverty, ad infinitum.

Getting ready to leave for New York was former Ambassador to Spain **Isabel Wilson**. She was on pins and needles because of the opening of "Flower Drum Song" on Broadway this month. Aside from Bel, **Pitoy Moreno**, **Ernest Escaler**, **Nene Quimson**, **Maribel Ongpin** and several others are forming the Filipino contingent. The good news for Bel, **Bobby**, **Joey C.**, **Chuching** and **Ramon,** is that the Good Governance Team won the Polo Club elections. Watch them complain of the headaches next.

* * *

The first week of October opened with the Portuguese embassy celebrating a food and product festival (6/F Rustan's Makati and InterCon's coffee shop—more about that next week. Suffice to say, Ambassador and Mme. **Joao da Silva** have both been working double time to ensure its success). The Spanish, too, are throwing a month-long party, which includes a week of Spanish films at Greenbelt. Most of the cultural shows at RCBC's Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium are free. The guitarist, **Jorge Orosco**, was superb, with all the CDs sold out on opening night. Call Instituto Cervantes for play dates of other events.

Corrections: The Netherlands Ambassador and Mme. **Theo Arnold** were mistakenly identified as the New Zealand ambassador and his wife in last week's column. Mme. **Daw Nan Phaung,** wife of the Myanmar ambassador, was likewise mistakenly identified as the wife of the Malaysian ambassador. Our profound apologies.

DSWD Assistant Secretary Rhoda Yap, French Ambassador Renee Veyret and Fr. Pierre Tritz

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

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BENNY Tan and former Ambassador Isabel Wilson sign copies of the book with their essays on widowhood.

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MARIBEL Ongpin

LESLIE Murray and Mila Wales

BRITISH Ambassador and Mme. Paul Dimond

AUTHOR and editor Erlinda Enriquez Panlilio during the book launch

CWC president Lulu Castañeda with Tess Castro

WHAT IS THE RETINA?
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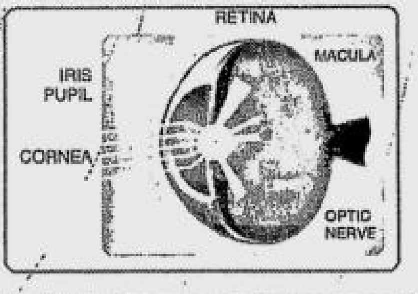
Third in the Galileo Patient Education Series. For reprints of previous materials, call us.
The Retina is the thin, delicate tissue lining the internal cavity of the eye behind the lens and iris. The cavity is filled with a transparent, gel-like fluid called the Vitreous, which is adherent to some portions of the retina. Microscopically, the retina is made up of millions of nerve fibers fanning forward from the optic nerve and ending at different distances in junctions with special light-sensitive cells called photoreceptors. The photoreceptor cells in the center of the retina (macula) have cone-shaped ends and are receptive to color, to images in bright light, and, to fine detail. The receptors in other areas have rod-shaped ends which are sensitive to gross movement and shapes especially under dim lighting.



What are the symptoms of Retinal Disease?
Varied symptoms are felt by patients affected by retinal disease depending to a great degree on the part of the retina affected:
- Blurring of vision, from severe to mild
- Loss of vision, from partial to complete
- Floating spots or flashes of light
- Night blindness and color blindness
- Wavy vision or blind spots when reading

What is Retinal Detachment?
The retina may be separated from its flimsy attachment to the back of the eye resulting in loss of function of the detached portion. The cause of detachments are:
- Most commonly, retinal tears or holes which may result from trauma to the eye or which may occur spontaneously in near sighted individuals
- Pulling of the retina by scars from trauma or by membranes in diabetics
- Rarely, severe inflammation or malignant diseases at the back of the eye

What is Retinopathy?
Retinopathy is a broad term for diseases affecting the retina especially its blood vessels. Hypertension and diabetes are among the systemic diseases that can damage the retinal vessels producing bleeding and deposits that damage retinal cells. Some medications can also harm the retina.

What is Macular Degeneration?
A broad range of degenerative processes principally affecting the center of the retina can produce difficulty in reading and blind spots. About one-third of elderly patients may develop some form of macular degeneration.

What is best for Retinal Disease?
Early detection and prevention are the best treatment plans for retinal disease. Prior to the development of severe visual problems, some diseases can be treated with Laser photocoagulation.

Who should have a Retinal examination?
Anybody with visual disturbances described above should see an ophthalmologist. Those with no symptoms but have the following should undergo periodic retina exams:
- Highly near-sighted individuals
- Diabetics especially if diagnosed more than 5 years ago
- Those over 60 years old
- Those with recent eye trauma

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Symphony tries to win back audiences

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

IF THE concert behavior of Manila's concert-goers in the last 10 years is any indication, the symphony is dead and ready to be buried.

When a concert opens with a star soloist in a popular concerto, the big bulk of the audience stays to finish the first part. At the last part, however, a symphony is played with nearly half of the audience gone.

This is why classical concerts have a bizarre format now: symphonies are featured in the first part and a soloist closes the program.

A major reason for this is conductors and orchestras no longer play the symphony, as they should. They have alienated even seasoned concert-goers and completely turned off concert first-timers (unless the symphony is on the level of Beethoven's Ninth and features a big chorus. By coincidence, both the New York Philharmonic and Philippine Philharmonic Orchestras opened their respective seasons with the Beethoven opus).

But this week, on Oct. 18 and 19, Debussy's "La Mer," Sibelius' Symphony No. 2 and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5, including Mussorgsky's/Rimsky Korsakov's "Night on Bald Mountain," will make a grand re-entry in Manila's music orbit with the return of the New York Philharmonic under the baton of Lorin Maazel. The show is again courtesy of Citibank.

(To the star-conscious concert-goer, the big treat is, of course, the umpteenth version of Rach 2 with Lang Lang as soloist on Nov. 19.)

When conductors figure in great music-making—like Riccardi Muti conducting the La Scala Orchestra in "Traviata" at the NHK Theater in Tokyo, or Henry Lewis conducting the PPO in "Madama Butterfly" in the early '80s, or Kurt Herbert Adler leading the PPO in the 1979 "Tosca"—it is an extra bonus when they turn out to be very articulate as well (they say that the legendary Herbert von Karajan hardly gives any interviews).

Maazel, who is visiting Manila for the second time (the first was when he led the Cleveland Orchestra in its Philippine debut in the early '80s), will be seen by Manila's music lovers for the first time with the renowned New York Orchestra.

It will be remembered that, in the early '80s, Maazel appeared in a post-concert dialogue at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Little Theater called "Music, Media and the Future."

Goodwill ambassadors

When I met him at the airport, he declared that musicians made the best ambassadors of goodwill, and it was a role they played without trying.

LANGLANG
Rachmaninoff
Scriabin

LANG Lang in flyer for concert in London

LANGLANG
Rachmaninoff
Piano Concerto No. 3
Scriabin Etudes
Yuri Temirkanov
St. Petersburg
Philharmonic

BASSOONIST Adolfo Mendoza

"People are the same everywhere and they can understand themselves better by sheer force of the language of music. To love one another is another message musicians try to convey every time we perform. That is the ultimate political message music is capable of sending across to all the peoples of the world," he said.

Can the New York Philharmonic restore our faith in classical concerts?

Hounded by controversy wherever he was assigned, from Vienna to France, Maazel pointed out that the only way artists could defend their profession was by staying out of the political arena. "Our main goal is to bring people together."

He has always been optimistic about the future of classical music, noting that the advances in technology actually hastened its appreciation. "Television coverage of concerts opened the door to more people who are visually oriented. CDs will not replace the concert but will offer another way to listen to a concert."

The conductor pointed out that classical music accounted for 6 or 7 percent of the entire recording industry, with more than 60,000 titles sold every year.

And what do I remember about my conversation with Maestro Kurt Masur (now conductor emeritus of the New York Philharmonic), who was succeeded early this year by Maazel?

Music as competition

Well, he deplored the tendency of music schools to educate every young musician to play like Isaac Stern or Van Cliburn, or breed a new batch of Lang Lang or Cecile Licad (the Filipina pianist was Masur's soloist in a Mozart concerto performed by the London Symphony). "There is danger in this kind of education where the young are made to hope that they will all end up No. 1. This goal is suicidal, and aspiring musicians with this orientation tend to be superficial. The goal of every musician is to help translate the meaning of music to the great mass of the people and not to compete with each other."

The audience reaction that Masur finds more substantial is not the deafening applause or the standing ovation after a concert.

"The best reactions come from within," he said, pointing to his heart. "Of course, the applause is good and so are the ovations, but how that music changes the person is, for me, the ultimate reaction."

I finally heard Lang Lang's Rach 3 with the St. Petersburg Philharmonic under the baton of Yuri Temirkanov, live from The Royal Albert Hall in London, courtesy of Nona Zaldivar, who was the No. 2 officer at the Philippine embassy in Beijing in the '90s. It was a youthful Rach 3 with graded intensity, but the pianist's formidable technique was simply awesome.

Zaldivar, who must be one of the first Filipinos to hear Lang Lang at a young age, first heard the phenomenal Chinese pianist perform at the Beijing Concert Hall in the mid-'90s when the pianist was still a chubby little boy of 9 or 10.

After the concert, the Filipina diplomat recalled, Lang Lang's friends (mostly children) climbed up the stage to present him flowers. After the young fans dispersed, Zaldivar approached Lang Lang (the proud teacher, Prof. Zhao Pinggho, was with him) and presented him with a box of chocolates that pleased him no end.

"He was already brilliant at that young an age," Zaldivar told the INQUIRER.

Here and there

That was a commendable bassoon recital of Adolfo Mendoza with Mary Anne Espina as assisting artist and guest flutist Agustina de la Luna Deyro. But the repertoire could have been rearranged to allow for a musical build-up. It could have ended with Camille Saint-Saens' Sonata for Bassoon, Op. 168, but meandered still to Tansman's Suite of the same flavor. The most enjoyable was Bozza's Sicilienne et Rondo and Gliere's Impromptu, Op. 35, No. 9. Gabaye's Sonatine with Deyro was a show-stealer!

An immensely dazzling aural treat was Stravinky's "Firebird" Suite and Shosta-kovich's Symphony No. 9, Op. 70, in the conducting recital of Arnel Feliciano at the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory, with string players from the San Miguel Philharmonic. Bach's Concerto for Three Pianos in C Major, with pianists Najib Ismail, Mary Anne Espina and Jonathan Coo, had a splendid reading.

***

The Clarion Chamber Ensemble founded by American flutist David Johnson will have its inaugural concert at the Equitable PCI Bank's Francisco Santiago Hall on Oct. 16 with pianist Hyun Joo Lee. The program: Telemann's Concerto for Flute, Two Violins, Harpsichord, Basoon and Double Bass; Beethoven's Quintet for Piano and Woodwinds; and Schumann's Quintet for Piano and String Quartet. Call 631-9367.

'RASHOMON' ON STAGE

Truth? Whose truth?

By Cora Llamas
Contributor

TRUTH depends on the teller—this is the idea made famous by "Rashomon," the late Japanese filmmaker Akira Kurosawa's masterpiece. Kurosawa proved its point without relying on the modern gizmos that would have enraptured the modern MTV-bred directors.

Kurosawa couldn't—his film was made in the early '50s. Computerized false images and photographic cheats were not available. Instead, the maestro relied on a strong tantalizing storyline and powerful performances to create his philosophical and psychological whodunit.

A samurai is found dead in the woods. Four witnesses—the bandit who confessed to the murder, the samurai's lovely wife whom he raped, a passerby who accidentally saw what happened, and even the dead samurai himself through a medium—tells four different stories.

Who is telling the truth? Or are all of them telling half-truths and half-lies? Can we piece together the truth of what happened from picking out separate, similar events from the many stories? Why would these characters lie? Who are they protecting? What are they hiding? What do they stand to gain or lose, if the truth does come out?

Dramatis Personae (DP) translates the film into the stage, propelling the original 12th-century Kyoto setting to a futuristic post-nuclear holocaust. Helmed by Lito Casaje, the play opens to gloomy skies streaked by lightning of indefinable colors. Amid this barren wasteland, three people—the accidental passerby (Joel Caballero), the bandit Tajimuro (Joseph Lara), and a hunchbacked priest (Andre Christian Torre), who is an acquaintance of the couple—seek shelter from the scathing burns of acid rain.

DINGDONG Rosales and Alma Concepcion

In his director's notes, Casaje says that his play aims to explore "the complex nature of every woman's psyche," the darker, more manipulative side of the feminine id that would bend men to her will to satisfy her drives. Through "subservience and tears," the former servant girl who had been cast in an unforgiving prison of loneliness and domesticity by her husband, uses the bandit's lust and her samurai spouse's rigid sense of honor to execute vengeance and gain her freedom.

Unseen hand

Looking back, the director does have a point. Every point of view reveals the woman's unseen hand. The bandit admits he reneged on his original plans to spare the samurai's life and killed him, because the wife who supposedly had been smitten by his sexual prowess pleaded for her honor's restoration.

Yet, the woman claims that somehow, she had plunged it into her bound husband's chest, stricken with guilt and shame by his coldly accusing eyes.

The dead man himself has a different version. Shamed because his wife had apparently fallen in love with her rapist, he says he committed hara-kiri.

Finally, a stranger hiding in the bushes blames the woman for forcing the two men, who didn't love her anyway, to fight to the death for their own honor.

As scripted by Shinobu Hashimoto, "Rashomon" is a literary gem. The dialogue teases the audience's thinking, revealing a motivation here, a betrayal there, while never really relinquishing its entire secret. There are no black-and-white characters, only gray ones. Each has his or her buried pain and axe to grind. Seeming nobility bares itself as destructive traditionalism, and yet even the wicked possess their fair share of decency.

Casaje could have made his point. Unfortunately, the complexity of the play and the layering of the characters suffer from the strain of one-dimensional performances and the lack of chemistry between the principals.

It's not a question of budget; DP, which has done a commendable job of mounting existential, angsty productions that some theater companies wouldn't touch, has scored before with "The Perpetrators" and "The Lady Presidents." Even a tired classic like "The Glass Menagerie" can shine, in spite of faded wardrobe and unimaginative lighting, because of the DP actors.

COMPLEX women's psyche

Not living up

Unfortunately, the acting in this particular production does not live up to standards. Lara plays Tajimuro like an uncouth animal who preens one moment and belches the next. But where, as per the script, is the alleged Robin Hood who awes men by his defiance of conventional society and the women by his masculine magnetism?

The unruly, proud rebel could have stood as a moral, social, and even psychological foil to the cold, stiff, totally unsympathetic samurai who has never seen his wife more lovelier than when she is in love with Tajimuro.

As the samurai, Dingdong Rosales looks and acts distant and austere. At least, during his few lines of dialogue, he does appear as an arrogant, domineering, insensitive jerk that even the most submissive wife would be tempted to leave.

But his aura still needs more of that warrior spirit that kept the wastelands under martial law-like order. Lara and Rosales' characters don't connect, not with each other, not with the wife with a questionable character.

Alma Concepcion alternately whines and flirts, but there is no depth to her sudden turn around from dutiful wife to would-be runaway lover ready to break from the strictures of society. Her newfound passion for her rapist is so sudden it's incredible; nor do we understand the transformation of Tajimuro's passion to love and care.

A character-driven play like "Rashomon" could stand on the authenticity of its dialogue. It doesn't need frills or flashy stage tricks. What it does need is sustained, powerful projection of the various twists and turns of the characters' inner lives that can and should make the audience care. Not all the attempts at surreal choreography can replace that.

Otherwise, the audience would have its own disturbing response—like cheering at the wrong time, e.g. Tajimuro's graphic rape of the wife, which Casaje obviously meant to be repulsive and immoral.

DP's past productions had their actors prevailing over their economics. May it rise to high standards again.

DP's "Rashomon" is on tour. Call 722-4205 or 721-3178.

Despite lackluster acting, Dramatis Personae's new production is provocative

---

Romantic comedy at Shaw Theater

THE CAST of 'Forty Carats'

A GEM of a play, "Forty Carats" will be shown at the William J. Shaw Theater, Shangri-La Plaza, until Oct. 20. It will then move to the Carlos P. Romulo Theater, RCBC Plaza, Makati City, Oct. 24-Nov. 3.

Directed by Baby Barredo, the Repertory Philippines production of the Jay Allen adaptation of the Barillet and Gredy play features veteran performer Joy Virata, Rep regulars Michael Williams, Arnel Carrion, Liesl Batucan, Miguel Faustmann, Rem Zamora, Jay Glorioso, Charlie Barredo, Dulce Aristorenas and Oliver Usison.

Discounts for schools and other groups are available. The play is also available for special fund-raising performances. Call 633-4822, e-mail rep@broline.com or visit www.repertoryphilippines.com.

A sweet, smart graphic adventure

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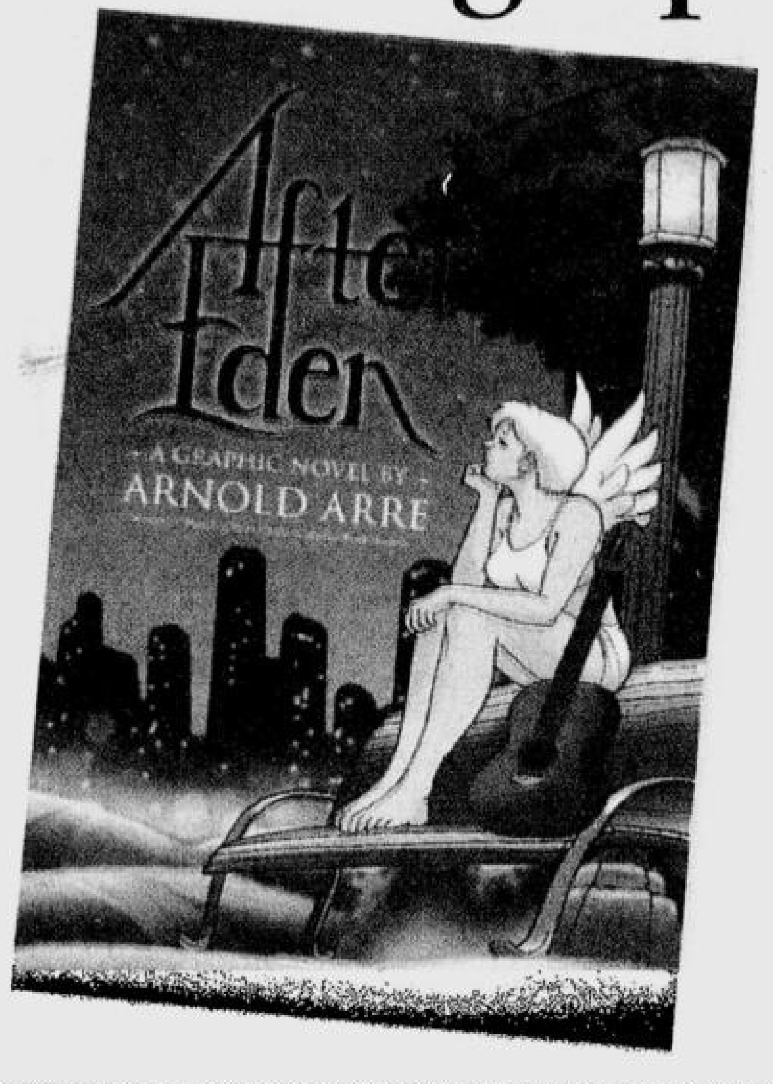
By Ruel S. De Vera

REVIEW



Award-winning comic book creator Arnold Arre takes local comic books on a romantic, fun and fresh direction with 'After Eden'

AFTER WINNING awards and rave reviews for his groundbreaking comic book series "The Mythology Class" and the futuristic one-shot "Trip to Tagaytay," Arnold Arre takes readers in an entirely new direction with his newest graphic novel, the 254-page "After Eden," the first release from Adarna House's new Anino imprint.

Beyond its sheer length, "After Eden" is impressive because of its charming set of characters and intelligent exposition. At its heart, and like most of Arre's other works, "After Eden" is a love story, but it's a complicated one with a wink-wink, pop-culture feel and a sentimentality that's sincere but a bit cutesy.

The word-heavy novel spins around the lives of Jon, a hobby storeowner, and Celine, an advertising writer. The two had shared one moment as children, a moment immortalized in a photograph. A chance meeting after a riot occurs at a fantasy/hobby convention (yes, you read that correctly) leads to what appears at first to be a fairly innocuous, somewhat saccharine romance. But then, Arre throws in a novel, slightly twisted, well, twist.

Greg, Jon's loud-mouthed fanboy friend, and Lea, Celine's bitchy best friend, conspire to break the couple up. Apparently, the two miss the lives they shared with Jon and Celine prior to the fateful reunion, and now the two launch a notably mean-spirited attempt to end the romance and perhaps return everyone to a time before starry eyes and sweet nothings. Return everyone, in other words, to a life of collectible card games and shopping sprees. The fact that Greg and Lea can't stand each other only adds to the fun, as does the presence of a band called Heaven Sent, which is actually made up of pretty angels currently playing cupid.

Obstacle course

The plot winds its way through an obstacle course of near-misses and successful gambits by Greg and Lea, as well as a quick look at the lives of two other friends, gaming addict Michael and stuffed toy-collector Cathy. But the meat of "After Eden" is how lovebirds Jon and Celine are torn apart by people they

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FUJI XEROX NEWS

Fuji Xerox Philippines Successfully Introduces Black & White Multifunction with Color

Fuji Xerox Philippines, Inc. (FXPI), the leader in document management innovation, recently brought to the country the very first color-capable multifunction systems with the introduction of the new Document Centres C400 and C320 in a grand launch in the Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati City. These new digital machines provide print, copy, scan and fax functions in a single solution and are priced as affordably as black-and-white systems.

The Document Centres C400 and C320 are fully–integrated document solutions with output speeds of up to 40 black-and-white pages per minute (ppm) and 20 color ppm, and 32 black-and-white ppm and 16 color ppm, respectively.

Converting paper documents to digital files has never been as quick and easy as with the Document Centre C400/C320. With enhanced scanning capabilities, these machines give users a variety of transmission options, including scan to PDF, scan to email, scan to document depository and scan to HTML.

The Document Centre C400/C320 can also be configured to either print, store or convert all incoming faxes into electronic mail, which can then be emailed directly to intended recipients. With this feature, users do not need to wait at the fax machine for confidential faxes, and paper wastage is minimized.

These machines work with the Fuji Xerox software suite to support an entire document management cycle, including data capture and information sharing, right through to output. The Fuji Xerox software suite includes Docuworks, Docushare, CentreWare and Flowport.

The introduction of the Document Centre C400/C320 indicates Fuji Xerox's position as the leading global manufacturer of office systems for document creation and publishing, from network and stand-alone digital black-and-white and color printers and copiers, electronic scanners, plotters, multifunction devices, document management software, and document supplies.

Fuji Xerox New Line of Personal Printers Offered in BPI Installment Madness at 0% Interest

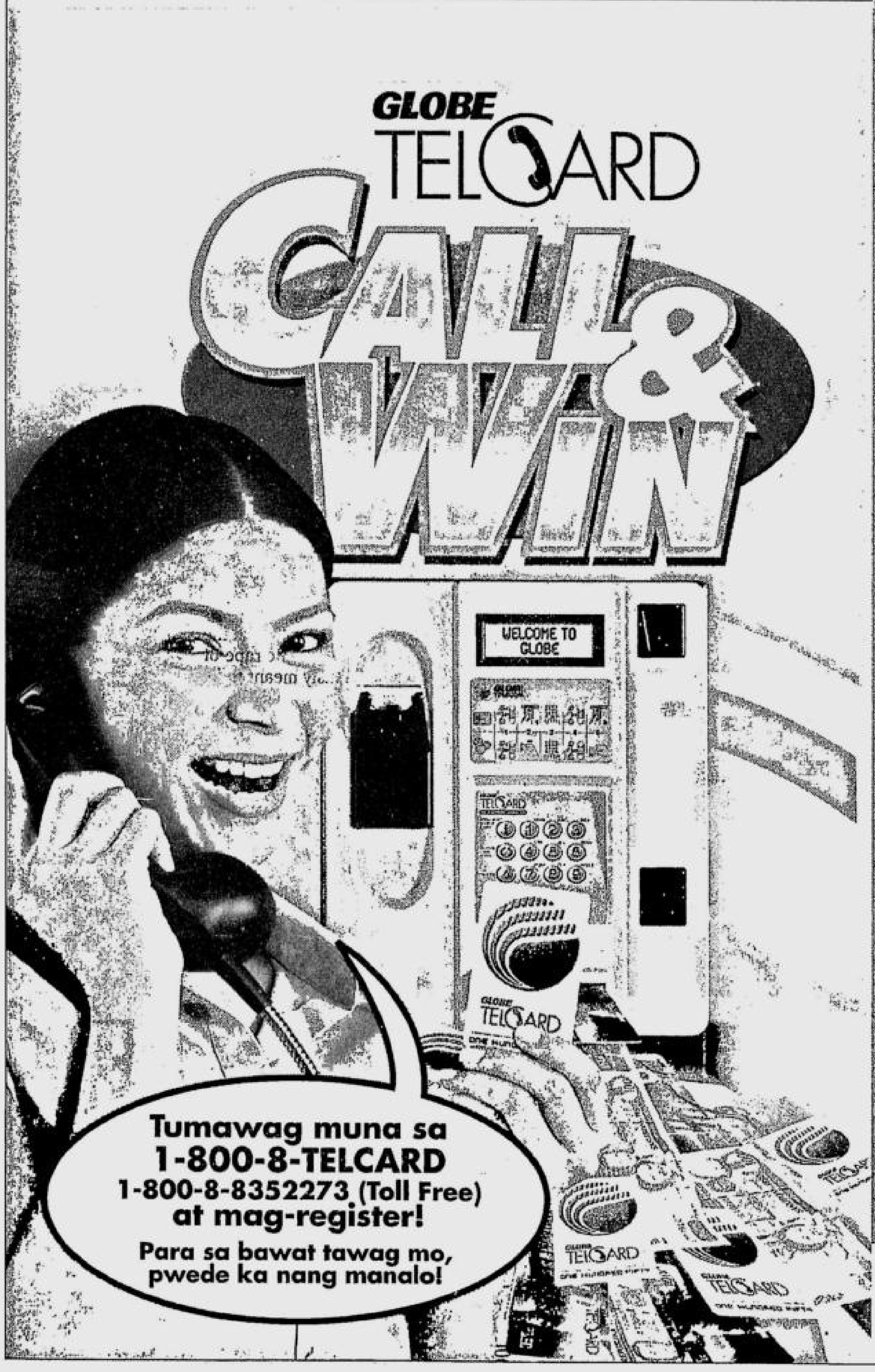
Fuji Xerox Philippines, Inc. (FXPI) joins the 29th BPI Installment Madness, Hysteria in Glorietta, on October 9-27, 2002 at the Glorietta, Ayala Center, by offering its new line of monochrome personal printers at Zero Percent (0%) Interest, under the Villman Computer Systems. By using any BPI credit card, consumers can easily avail of these premium printers at an affordable price of a little more than P1,000 per month for a 12-month installment term.

FXPI recently introduced two premium personal laser printers under its Phaser printer line: the Phaser 3110 and Phaser 3210. These new Fuji Xerox Phaser printers combine excellent performance levels and convenient, cost-saving functions in a compact, desktop body. These have been developed to cater to the fast and efficient printing needs of small to medium enterprises and home offices.

The introduction of these two new printers indicates Fuji Xerox's commitment to cover a wide spectrum of markets with its brand of digital office solutions, ranging from the most complex multifunction machines down to the basic office requirements.

THE DOCUMENT COMPANY
FUJI XEROX

Pwedeng manalo ng P10,000 araw-araw at P100,000 sa grand draw!



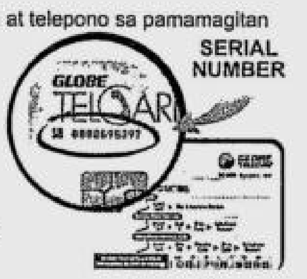
Tumawag muna sa
1-800-8-TELCARD
1-800-8-8352273 (Toll Free)
at mag-register!
Para sa bawat tawag mo, pwede ka nang manalo!

Mechanics

PROMO DURATION

GAWAIN	PETSA
Promo Period	Oct. 15 to Dec. 15, 2002
Daily Raffle Draws	Oct. 22 to Dec. 22, 2002
Grand Raffle Draw	Dec. 27, 2002

PAANO SUMALI?
1. Iparehistro ang iyong Telcard serial number, pangalan, kumpletong tirahan at telepono sa pamamagitan ng alinman sa mga sumusunod na paraan:
   - Tumawag sa *1-800-8- Telcard (1-800-8-8352273)*
   - Sumulat sa Form sa lugar kung saan mo nabili ang iyong Telcard: sa Globe Business Center, Dealer o Outlet.
2. Tumawag gamit ang iyongTelcard (P100, P150 or P200) sa kahit saang Globe Payphone na malapit sa iyong lugar:
   - Tawag: local, NDD, IDD, cellphone at premium services
3. BAWAT TAWAG MO, ISANG RAFFLE ENTRY AGAD!
4. TUMAWAG NANG TUMAWAG upang mas malaki ang pagkakataon mong manalo sa Daily at Grand Raffle Draws.



PAANO PIPILIIN ANG MANANALO?
1. Mula sa listahan ng mga tumawag, gamit ang Electronic Raffle, pipiliin ang mga mananalo sa Daily at Grand Raffle Draws.
2. Ang Raffle Draw ay gaganapin araw-araw, Lunes hanggang Biyernes, tuwing 2:00 ng hapon, sa 4/F Globe Telecom Plaza Tower 1, Pioneer corner Madison Sts., Mandaluyong City.
3. Mahuhuli ng isang (1) linggo ang Raffle Draw; samantalang 3 araw pagkatapos nito ang paglalathala ng mga nanalo sa piling mga dyaryo.
4. Kapag napili na ang nanalong entry:
   - Susuriing mabuti ng Globe, Logika at ng DTI representative kung ang nanalo ay pinahihintulutang lumahok sa promotion. Ang tumawag para magpa-rehistro at ang taong may hawak ng Telcard ang ituturing na may-ari.
   - Magpapadala ng liham ang Globe sa nanalo upang malaman niya kung paano, saan at kailan puedeng makuha ang premyo.
   - Magsasagawa ng karagdagang pagsusuri ang Globe bago ibigay ang premyo.
5. Ang mga nanalo at hindi nanalong entries sa Daily Draws ay hindi na kasama sa susunod pang mga Daily Draws; ngunit ang ibang entries na hindi pa napipili ay kasama sa Grand Raffle Draw.

MGA PREMYO
1. **Daily Raffle Draws - Oct. 22 hanggang Dec. 22, 2002**
   - **Isang (1) mananalo ng P10,000 in cash araw-araw**
2. **Grand Raffle Draw - Dec. 27, 2002**
   - **1st Prize - P 100,000 in cash**
   - **2nd Prize - P 50,000 in cash**
   - **3rd Prize - P 25,000 in cash**
   - **Consolation Prizes: Sampung (10) mananalo ng P10,000 in cash**

SINO ANG PUWEDENG TUMANGGAP NG PREMYO?
1. Ang premyo ay ibibigay lamang kung masusumite (submit) ng nanalo ang mga sumusunod:
   - Aktwal na Telcard na may tamang Serial Number
   - Isang (1) valid ID (Driver's License, Company ID, Birth Certificate, Passport)
   - Liham mula sa Globe
2. Kung ang napiling nanalo ay menor de edad (18 taon pababa), ito ang dapat gawin:
   - Samahan ng kanyang magulang o legal guardian at kailangan nilang magpakita ng mga dokumento bilang patunay na sila ang nangangalaga o kumukupkop sa nanalo.
3. Maaaring kunin ang premyo sa loob ng animnapung (60) araw, mula sa petsa na natanggap ng nanalo ang kanyang liham. Kung ito ay hindi nakuha sa loob ng itinakdang bilang ng araw, ang premyo ay mapupunta sa Globe ng may pagsang-ayon ng DTI.
4. Ang premyo ay maaaring makuha sa mga sumusunod na lugar:
   - NCR winners - Marketing Department, 4/F Globe Telecom Plaza Tower 1, Pioneer corner Madison Sts., Mandaluyong City
   - Provincial winners – Sa pinakamalapit na Business Center
   - Visayas winners – Marketing Department, 14/F Globe-Isla Marketing Plaza, Panay Road, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City
5. Ang 20% tax para sa lahat ng mga premyong ipamimigay na higit sa P10,000.00 ay sasagutin ng Globe; ngunit ang alin mang karagdagang taxes o gastos ay sasagutin ng nanalo.
6. Ang mga empleyado ng Globe, Islacom, Logika at Lityan Philippines, kasama ng kanilang mga kamag-anakan (up to second degree of consanguinity o affinity), ay hindi pinahihintulutang lumahok sa promotion.

Ang mga Payphones sa mga na lugar na ito ay hindi kasali sa promotion: Puerto Princesa sa Palawan; Buluan sa Maguindanao; Malabang sa Lanao del Norte; Magpet at Pigcauayan sa North Cotabato; Sablayan, Rizal at Magsaysay sa Occidental Mindoro; Isulan, Lebak at Tacurong sa Sultan Kudarat.

Para sa mga karagdagang detalye, tumawag lamang sa 1-800-8-TELCARD (1-800-8-8352273) o basahin lamang ang flyers.

For promo updates and the list of everyday winners, please read the Philippine Star or tune in to 101.1 YES! FM.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR
YES! FM 101.1

PER DTI-NCR PERMT NO. 1657, SERIES OF 2002.

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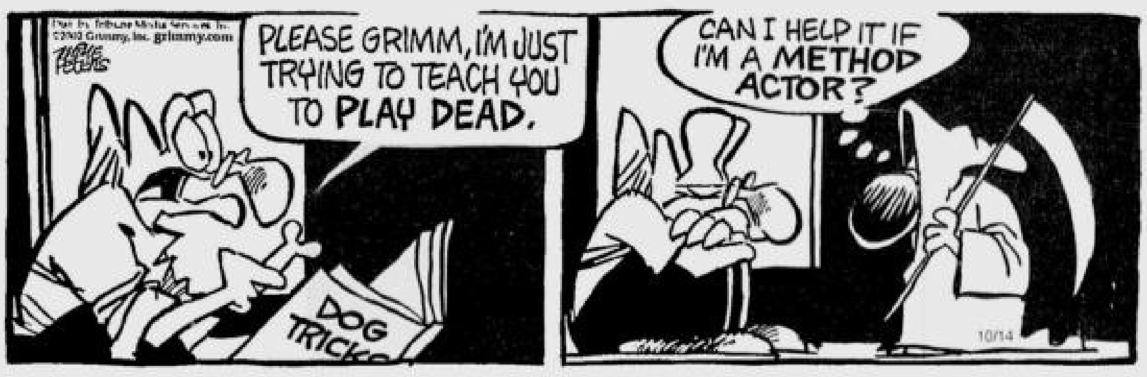
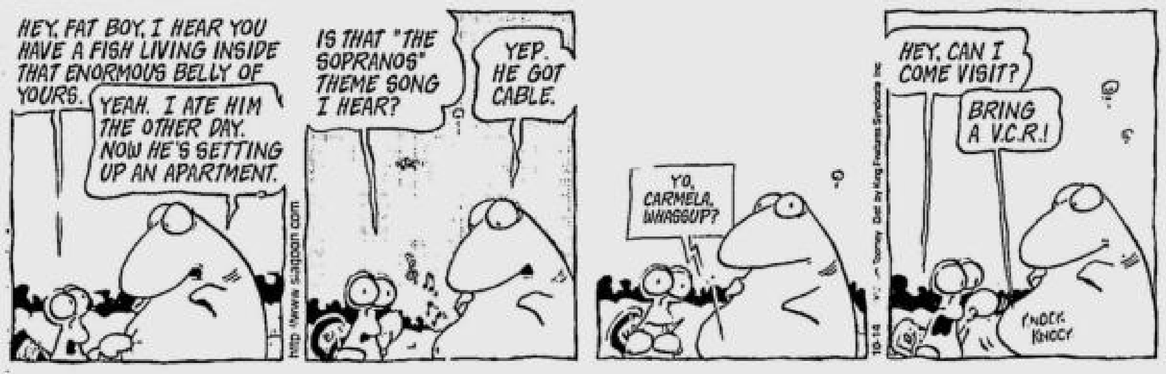
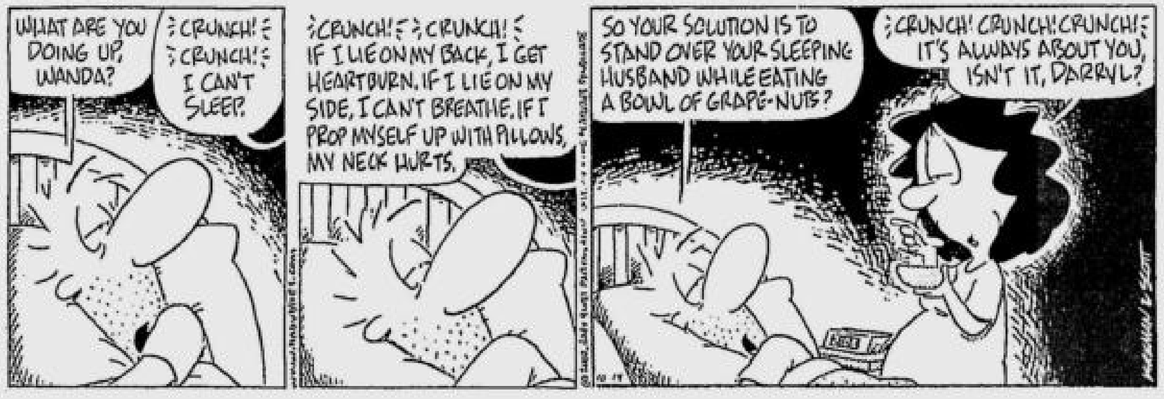
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


PLEASE GRIMM, I'M JUST TRYING TO TEACH YOU TO PLAY DEAD.
DOG TRICKS
CAN I HELP IT IF I'M A METHOD ACTOR?
10/14

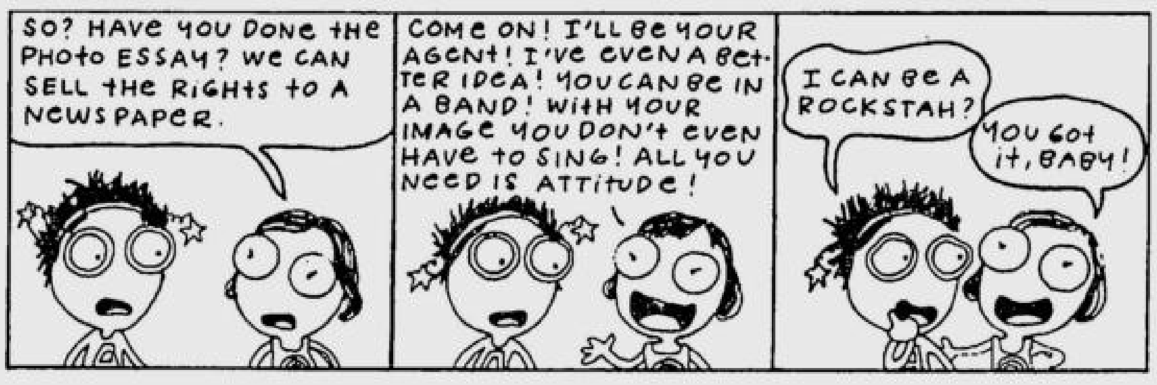
SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


HEY, FAT BOY, I HEAR YOU HAVE A FISH LIVING INSIDE THAT ENORMOUS BELLY OF YOURS.
YEAH. I ATE HIM THE OTHER DAY. NOW HE'S SETTING UP AN APARTMENT.
IS THAT "THE SOPRANOS" THEME SONG I HEAR?
YEP. HE GOT CABLE.
YO, CARMELA, WHASSUP?
HEY, CAN I COME VISIT?
BRING A V.C.R.!
KNOCK KNOCK

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP, WANDA?
CRUNCH! CRUNCH! I CAN'T SLEEP.
CRUNCH! CRUNCH! IF I LIE ON MY BACK, I GET HEARTBURN. IF I LIE ON MY SIDE, I CAN'T BREATHE. IF I PROP MYSELF UP WITH PILLOWS, MY NECK HURTS.
SO YOUR SOLUTION IS TO STAND OVER YOUR SLEEPING HUSBAND WHILE EATING A BOWL OF GRAPE-NUTS?
CRUNCH! CRUNCH! CRUNCH! IT'S ALWAYS ABOUT YOU, ISN'T IT, DARRYL?

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


SO? HAVE YOU DONE THE PHOTO ESSAY? WE CAN SELL THE RIGHTS TO A NEWSPAPER.
COME ON! I'LL BE YOUR AGENT! I'VE EVEN A BETTER IDEA! YOU CAN BE IN A BAND! WITH YOUR IMAGE YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO SING! ALL YOU NEED IS ATTITUDE!
I CAN BE A ROCKSTAH?
YOU GOT IT, BABY!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Harry Anderson, Ralph Lauren, Roger Moore, Arleen Sorkin

Happy Birthday: Keep your personal life and your emotions in check and this can be a fabulous year for you. You will have the savvy to pull off whatever deal you choose. If you follow your instincts you will rise above anything that is unsavory .You are the master of your own destiny. Your numbers are 6, 18, 20, 25, 31, 33

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Problems will continue if you don't sit down and have a heart-to-heart talk with the one you love. You have probably neglected your family in order to get ahead professionally. Now's the time to make up for your absence.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Do something special with the whole family. Whether your outings are of an educational nature or strictly for exercise, everyone will benefit.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Children's activities may cost you dearly. Remember, you don't have to spend a lot to have fun. Some of your new friends may not be that trustworthy. Stay alert.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You should take time to do things with children. Uncertainties about your relationship may play on your mind. Consider all the alternatives. You may want to get some legal advice.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may feel a little under the weather. Don't exert yourself. Stay home and help youngsters prepare for festivities. Do a bit of research on a project you've been working on.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get busy. You should be making as many of your Christmas gifts as possible. You can save a bundle and you can get the kids involved as well.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may be overly sensitive to criticism of your home. You aren't the neatest individual, but you do appreciate nice surroundings. It may be time to put some energy into a little redecorating.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): It's time to discard old junk. Have a garage sale and put the money you make into a travel fund. This is an ideal time for you to take a relaxing trip.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may have to make a fast financial decision. Don't involve too many others in your planning or it could slow you down. Set a cash figure in your mind and refuse to go over that amount.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let your partner goad you into pouring your heart out. Try to find a place where you will not be disturbed by anyone. You need more time to think this through.

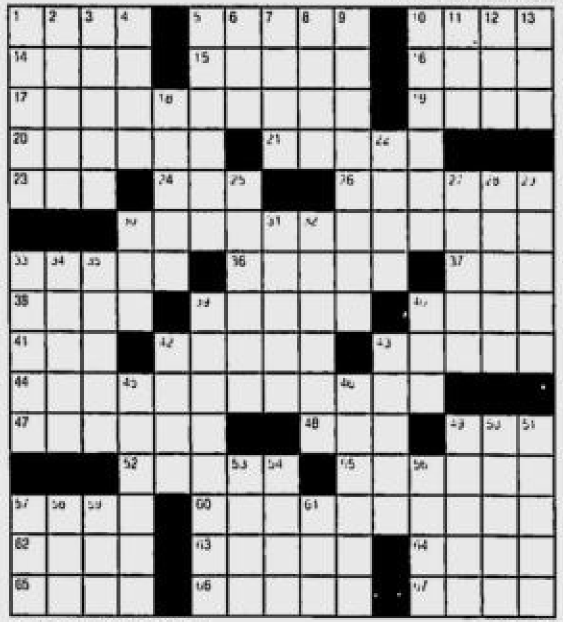
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It's time for you to shake things up a little, not only for yourself, but also for others. Whether you decide to entertain at home or plan an excursion, it will be exciting for all.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Lending and borrowing may present a problem. A friendship will suffer if money becomes an issue. Your desire to get away may lead you into greater debt.

Birthday Baby: You will be able to find solutions to any problems that arise. You will be compassionate, caring and charismatic. You will be popular with your peers but fickle when it comes to your personal life.

DAILY CROSSWORD

1MSPuzzles@aol.com



By Robert Zimmerman
San Diego, CA
10/14/02

ACROSS
1 Armed services grp.
5 Flooded
10 Say grace
14 Late-night gagster
15 Amble
16 Like a hole-in-one
17 Like father like son?
19 Austen novel
20 Blush
21 Woven hat fiber
23 Exist
24 34th president
26 Ready for the plow
30 Feature of most cockpits
33 Temporary paper money
36 Smelling of mildew
37 Double-crosser
38 Fertile soil
39 Fielders' gloves
40 Weighty book
41 Writer Umberto
42 1957 hit, "Wake Up Little __"
43 Sub finder
44 Ballpark bargain
47 Bar of the West
48 Net-judge's call
49 School org.
52 Garlic-basil sauce
55 Like some wedding cakes
57 Zodiac link
60 Aircraft type
62 Scary monster
63 Conger catcher
64 Graven image
65 God with a hammer
66 Takes a break
67 Withered

DOWN
1 Marine starter?
2 Waste conduit
3 Battery terminal
4 Victuals
5 Actress Plummer
6 Stir-fry pan
7 Yard-sale warning words
8 Dispatched
9 Fire-hose connections
10 Arms buildup period
11 Flock leader
12 Branch
13 Truly!
18 Tired of it all
22 Aesthetic to a fault
25 Mischievous
27 Semimetallic element
28 Camel's cousin
29 Odorific compound
30 Slow-witted
31 Adorable one
32 Bony
33 Iditarod rides
34 Powdered chocolate
35 "Eating __"
39 Semi-soft, creamy cheese
40 Rocky outcrop
42 Blackthorn
43 Become permanent
45 Jazzy dancer
46 Dissuades
49 Simba's family
50 Carreras, e.g.
51 Designer Simpson
53 Too, too cute
54 Canvas colors?
56 Sponsorship: var.
57 Camp bed
58 Crude grunt
59 Theater-sign letters
61 Butterfly catcher

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

D	E	A	L	E	R		R	E	S	C	R	I	P	T
A	L	C	O	V	E		E	L	G	R	E	C	O	S
M	E	A	N	I	E		D	A	T	A	B	A	S	E
A	P	P	E	A	L	E	R	S		W	U	R	S	T
S	H	U		N	I	K	I	T	A		S	U	E	S
C	A	L	M		N	E	V	I	N	S		S	S	E
U	N	C	A	P		S	E	N	S	E	S			
S	T	O	R	E	S				A	S	P	E	C	T
			T	E	E	T	E	R		S	A	V	O	R
S	E	N		P	A	R	L	O	R		T	A	M	E
T	R	O	T		S	E	A	T	E	D		C	P	A
R	I	V	A	L		S	P	A	C	E	S	U	I	T
I	C	E	B	O	A	T	S		I	M	P	A	L	E
F	A	L	L	I	B	L	E		T	O	O	T	E	R
E	S	S	E	N	C	E	S		E	N	T	E	R	S

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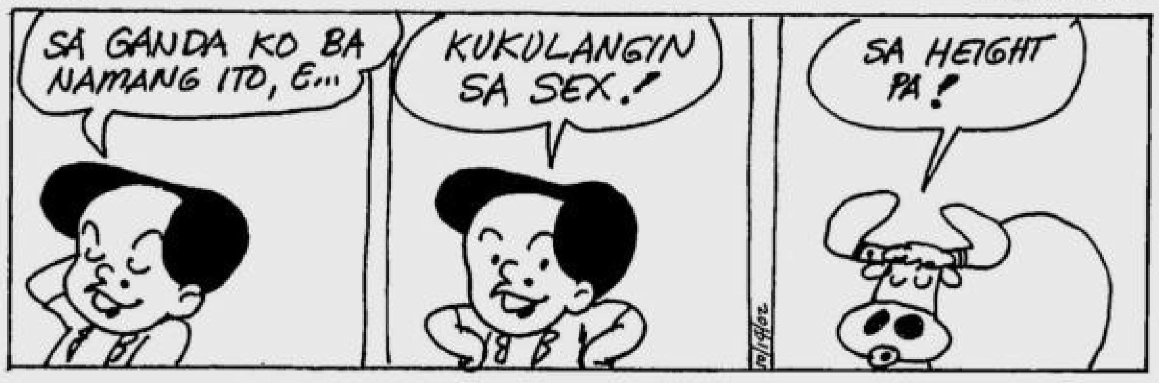
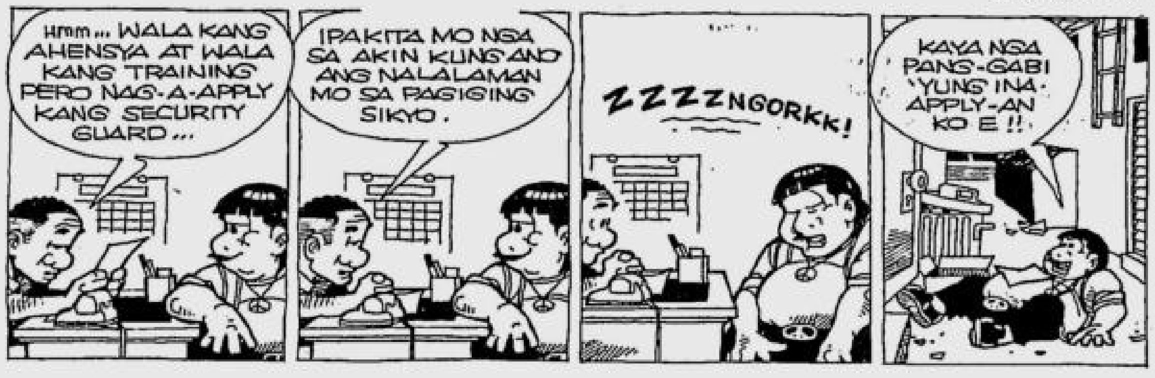
10/14/02

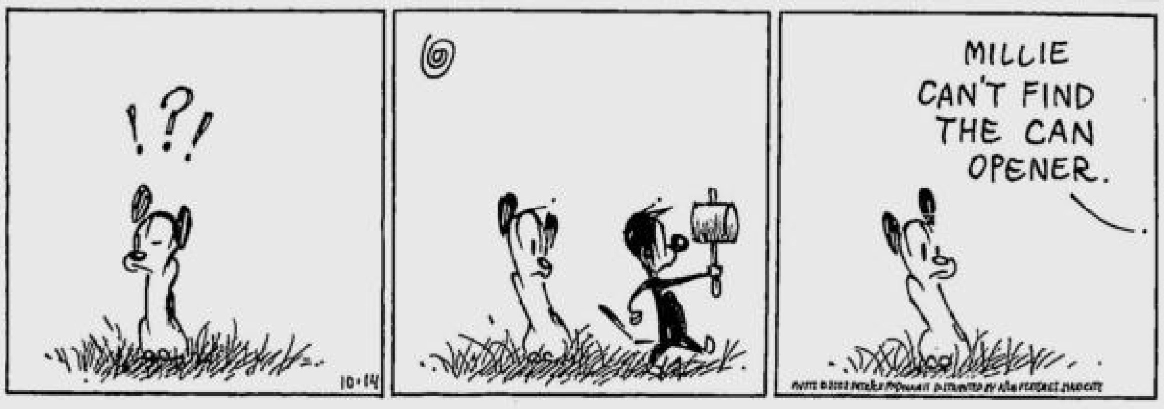
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


SA GANDA KO BA NAMANG ITO, E...
KUKULANGIN SA SEX!
SA HEIGHT PA!

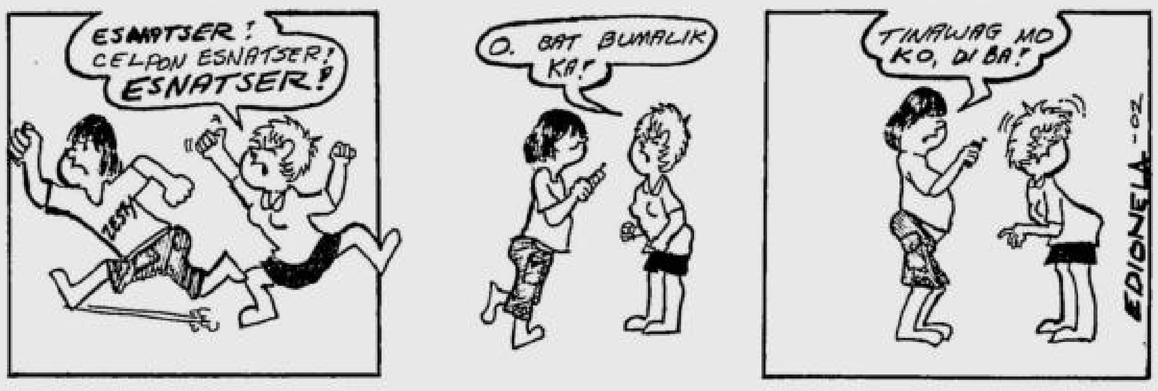
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


Hmm... WALA KANG AHENSYA AT WALA KANG TRAINING PERO NAG-A-APPLY KANG SECURITY GUARD...
IPAKITA MO NGA SA AKIN KUNG ANO ANG NALALAMAN MO SA PAGIGING SIKYO.
ZZZZNGORKK!
KAYA NGA PANG-GABI 'YUNG INA-APPLY-AN KO E!!

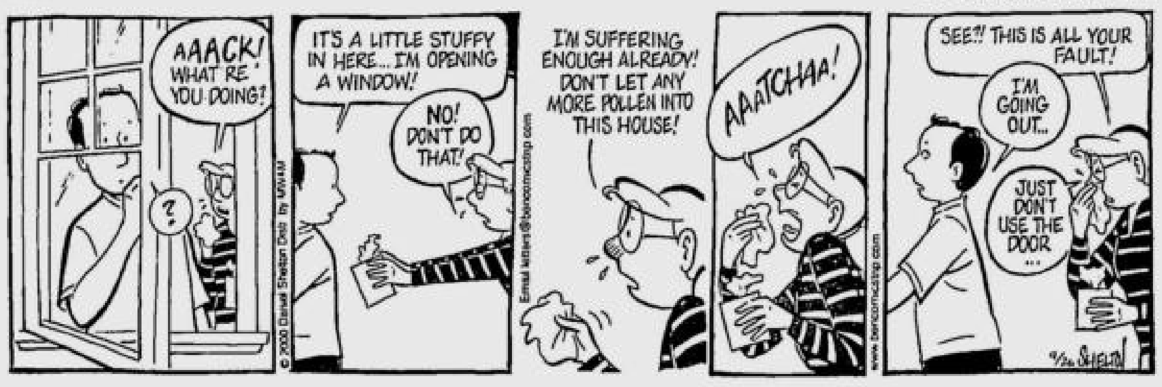
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


!?!
10·14
MILLIE CAN'T FIND THE CAN OPENER.

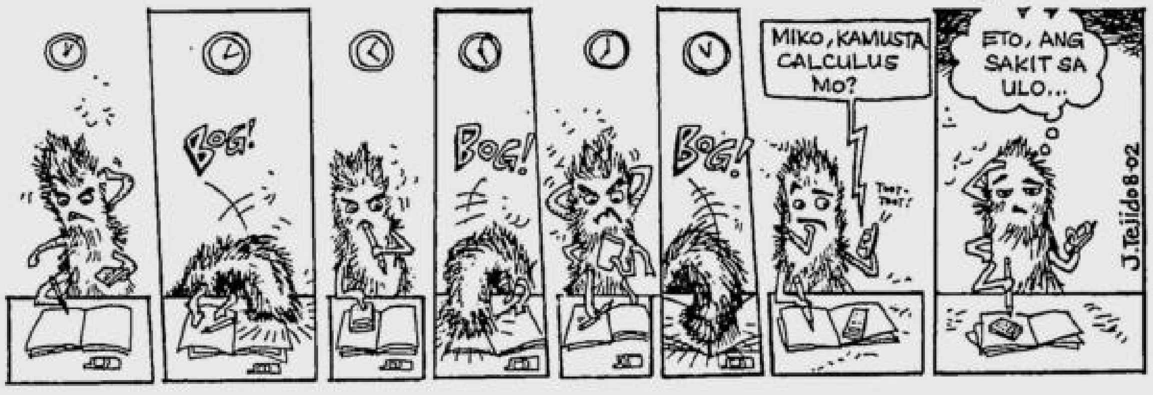
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


ESNATSER! CELPON ESNATSER! ESNATSER!
O. BAT BUMALIK KA?
TINAWAG MO KO, DI BA?
EDIONELA -02

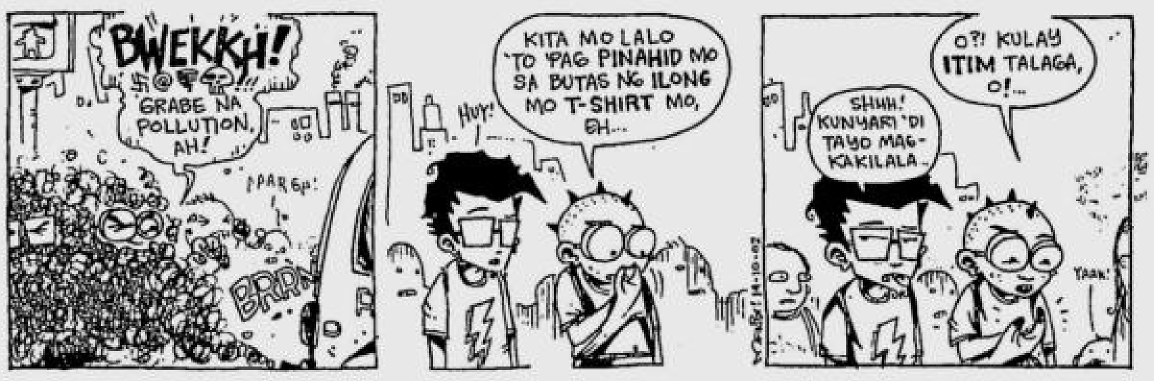
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


AAACK! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
?
IT'S A LITTLE STUFFY IN HERE... I'M OPENING A WINDOW!
NO! DON'T DO THAT!
I'M SUFFERING ENOUGH ALREADY! DON'T LET ANY MORE POLLEN INTO THIS HOUSE!
AAATCHAA!
SEE?! THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!
I'M GOING OUT...
JUST DON'T USE THE DOOR...

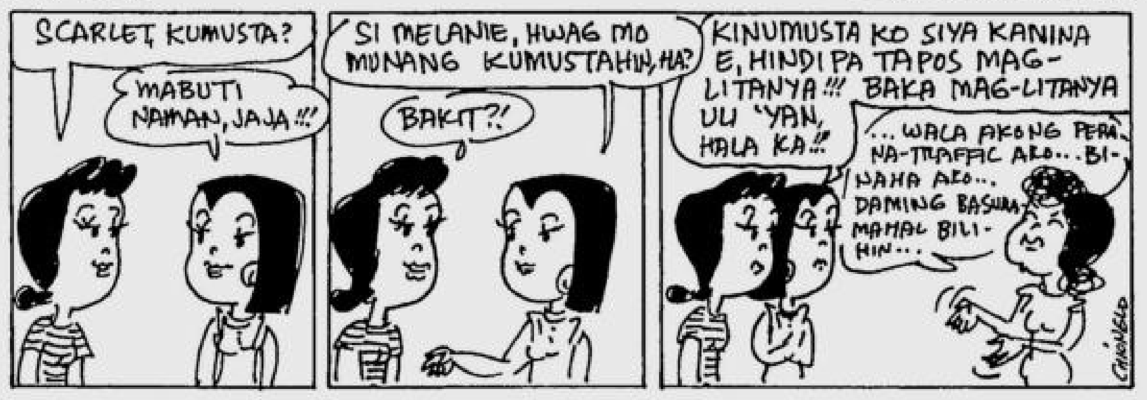
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BOG!
BOG!
BOG!
MIKO, KAMUSTA CALCULUS MO?
ETO, ANG SAKIT SA ULO...
J.Tejido 8-02

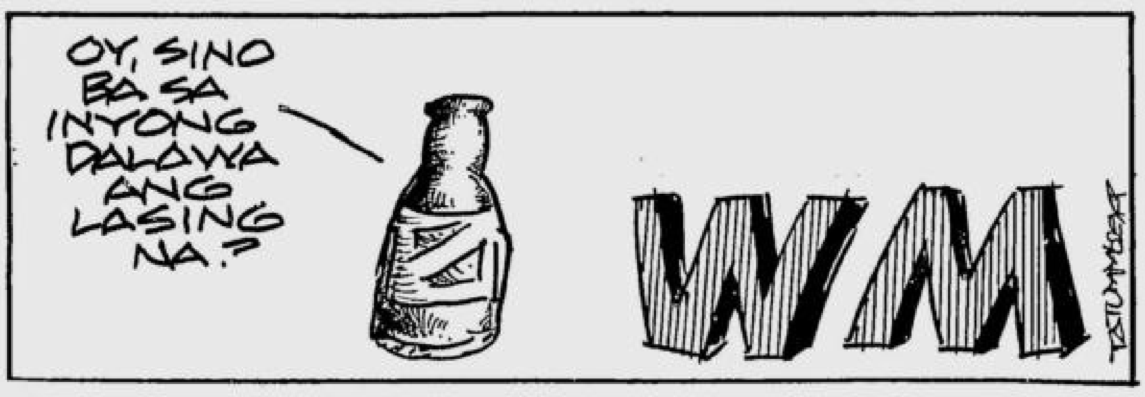
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


BWEKKH!
GRABE NA POLLUTION, AH!
PARGP!
BRRR
HUY!
KITA MO LALO 'TO 'PAG PINAHID MO SA BUTAS NG ILONG MO T-SHIRT MO, EH...
O?! KULAY ITIM TALAGA, O!...
SHHH! KUNYARI 'DI TAYO MAG-KAKILALA...
YAAK!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SCARLET, KUMUSTA?
MABUTI NAMAN, JAJA!!!
SI MELANIE, HWAG MO MUNANG KUMUSTAHIN, HA?
BAKIT?!
KINUMUSTA KO SIYA KANINA E, HINDI PA TAPOS MAG-LITANYA!!! BAKA MAG-LITANYA ULI 'YAN, HALA KA!!
...WALA AKONG PERA... NA-TRAFFIC AKO... BINAHA AKO... DAMING BASURA... MAHAL BILIHIN...
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


OY, SINO BA SA INYONG DALAWA ANG LASING NA?
WM

Dreamy novel breaks grounds

From page E8

reality, juxtaposed with dreams, which however are too pat, too detail-sharp, too clearly contoured, unlike real dreams, which are rather blurred. Faces, places flow indefinitely into each other with many blank spaces in between.

The tales, sketches, dreams are similarly textured. Perhaps this is precisely the point: they are one, intersecting, interlocking, interconnecting. Dreams are the lives we live, and life, our dreams willed. Indeed, the book bristles with fantastic stories about endless quests, prayers, sundry encounters. Entries in Angela's notebook go: "And there are so many stories to tell: an excess of intertwined lives, events, miracles, places…so dense a commingling of the improbable and the mundane…" (Salman Rushdie); "Dreams are the mind and the soul and the secret truth about us" (Truman Capote); "Maybe dreams don't just happen when we go to sleep. Wishes, desires, aspirations, visions, aren't these dreams, too?" The book says this, in fact.

Trademark

The entries in Angela's notebook are also usually verses from friend-writers, favorite writers, thoughts, nubbins of insights mostly about dreams that could well be Angela's own. Despite the novelty, the novel is still not postmodernistic, since even the dreams are too real, too clear-cut to serve the requisites of postmodernist fictiveness, fantasy, fabulation. Despite its postmodernistic portraying of open-ended random possibilities, and its avoidance of going into the interior lives of characters that lack depth and plausible motives, the language is still virtually romantic-realistic, trademark of the author.

As teller of gemlike tales, each one exquisitely and shiningly carved, Hidalgo is unsurpassed. Her fictional world is brimming with sounds, shapes, scents, bursting with color, whether in dreams or in reality, engaging senses with such telling details coming from a rich and vibrant imagination. A city of flowers, fields of star clusters, cosmos and pink mimosa, city of ice, treeless city with sooty roads, carnivals, sunlit parks, old fashioned *rondallas* playing somewhere, blind musicians, city of golden arches and gem-encrusted towers. All nature spring breathlessly alive in the pages of the book, whether in dream or in reality. Indeed, the pleasure is not so much in the text as in the tale! This is the strength of Hidalgo's craft, an achievement in itself.

A touching entry, a favorite, is this story of Risa, the cripple, who all her life had become used to her illness and pain—pale, puny, crooked, surviving on painkillers. When her body finally gave way, Father Gonzalo, who was at her bedside, asked her how she stayed for so long. She answered that she made a deal with pain, that she would live with it, but she must be allowed a little space.

Isn't that precisely what all of us ask of life? Breathing space? How subtly the author puts it in terms of dreams and stories, all written down during one's breathing space, "to put one's pieces together."

Different ways

There are different sensibilities, different demands and different ways of meeting them and the enterprising writer tries to give the readers new shapes of experience. The true artist goes off-track, offbeat, trying out something new and taking risks in that sense, but as long as the manner employed corresponds with a concept of reality, of art, of life, she can never go wrong. And, ultimately, it is the degree of pleasure a book provides that matters.

More antinovel than postmodern, "A Book of Dreams," as previously mentioned, marks a departure from the conventions of a traditional novel in an effort in the part of the writer to overcome literary habits and to challenge the expectations of the readers. But one has to be an extremely competent writer, in the first place, which Cristina Hidalgo undeniably is.

Ateneo awards 14 writing fellowships

THE ATENEO Institute for Literary Arts and Practices (Ailap) announces its writing fellows for its national writing workshop on Oct. 21-26.

Awarded with fellowships are Donna Mae Arriola (De la Salle University), Glenn Vincent Atanacio (University of Sto. Tomas), Ken Ishikawa (Perpetual Help College of Manila) and Jeanie Nieva (AdMU) for English poetry; Michael Francis Andrada (University of the Philippines), Jan Mikael Co (AdMU), Faye Johanna Cura (UP Baguio) and Rose Margaret Galang-Monis (Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila) for Filipino poetry; Von Bryan Cuerpo (UP), Asterio Enrico Gutierrez (AdMU) and Danicar Mariano (AdMU) for English fiction; Maricris Calilung (DLSU), Katrina Constantino (AdMU) and Heidi Pascual (DLSU) for Filipino fiction.

The panel will be led by Ailap director Benilda Santos and creative writing desk chair D.M. Reyes. They will be assisted by a number of Ateneo resident literary artists.

Aside from the short-term writing fellowship, the participants will receive a five-day stipend, free board and lodging, and a number of other benefits.

Ailap is opening the workshop to a limited number of observers. An open house will be held some time in November for those who are interested to meet and consult with the writers of the institute.

Call Jayson Jacobo, the workshop coordinator, at 426-6001 local 5321, or e-mail filipino@admu.edu.ph.

A sweet, smart graphic adventure

From page E5

trust—and then the hijinks really begin.

To be honest, there has never been so much crying in an Arnold Arre comic book until now. Just as he pumped up the dosage on the sugary romance, he also upped the ante on the emotional confrontations and breakdowns, displaying a knack for such scenes he hadn't shown before. Furthermore, he keeps the plot running briskly and the dialogue snappy, no mean feat for a book that's more than 250-pages long. Besides, trust Arre to turn a pop culture-pervaded courtship into a battle between heaven and hell.

Arre also successfully captures the zeitgeist of two different cultures: the fanboy culture of sci-fi, comic books, fantasy and games that evokes a certain degree of otherness for the uninitiated; and the flashy, unrelenting, competitive world of the ad industry. Arre approaches these worlds with a sincere understanding as well as a discerning eye

The art is vintage Arre; strong and simple in its black-and-white lines, but also humorous and somewhat whimsical in its individual portrayal of characters. Arre throws in scenes that brim with surreal visual references as well as scenes in homage to fantasy and sci-fi. The cover and the pinups also prove that while Arre's work looks good in black and white, it looks fantastic in color.

Handsome

As far as his characters are concerned, Jon and Celine are handsome lead characters; soulful to a fault, pure romantic hero and heroine material, or, as one extra calls them, "the mushiest couple on the planet." For my money, it is the supporting pair of Greg, with his funny hair and exaggerated expressions and Lea, with her naughty eyes and capacity for bile, that help make "After Eden" the vivid, catchy experience that it is. Try not to laugh too hard at the twosome's flashback sequences, or when they get stuck in a bar. While the book is actually a tale of three disparate romances, it is the central, threatened pair of Jon and Celine that propels "After Eden" to its honestly sentimental but visually grabbing climax. Arre orchestrates that denouement and the subsequent endings with confidence and maybe a smile or two.

"After Eden" is an important next step in our own comic book history because of its size, its narrative strength and its original flavor, proving that Arre continues to hone his skills. It also feels like an intensely personal work for him. He melds different worlds with his talent to craft another graphic adventure to be proud of; a book that's unabashedly romantic, one that says that fanboys and yuppies can find life-long love after all.

Available at leading bookstores and comic shops.

New inspirational and self-help books

ENRICH your mind, body and spirit this month with these new age, inspiration and self-help book suggestions from PowerBooks Specialty Store.

The Everything Spells and Charms Book
By Trish MacGregor

Gear up for Halloween and pick up PowerBooks' October Book of the Month. This book presents a multicultural overview of the practices of magic, featuring everything a person needs, from love spells to spells about success and prosperity.

Creativity and Prayer
By Ruth Fowke and Pam Dodson

Turning all our activities into a form of prayer can be an enjoyable experience. This book shows us how to foster our relationship with God as we go about and do our everyday tasks. It also teaches us how to tap into our God-given creativity, even if we feel we do not possess such talents.

Songs of Sunset (Incantations and Spells by the Spirit Questors)

Co-authored by Spirit Quest adviser Tony Perez and several members of the Spirit Questors, this book of "songs" gives us a glimpse into the world of the writers—their dreams, ideals, pains, loves and losses.

The Dream Book
By Gillian Kemp

At one point or another, we are all intrigued and curious about what our dreams mean. Presented in an interesting and artistic fashion, this book offers another view on what dreams are and how to interpret them. Author Gillian Kemp explains the different types of dreams as well as discusses recurring dreams.

Wake Up Calls
By Joan Lunden

A former host of "Good Morning America," Joan Lunden shares with us very personal thoughts and ideas, inspired by her favorite motivational quotes that she had collected from various sources over many years. In turn, she shows us ways to have a better attitude and outlook on life.

The How to Think Like Leonardo Da Vinci Workbook
By Michael J. Gelb

If you're an artist who admires Leonardo Da Vinci, you will find this workbook highly interesting, as it offers an in-depth explanation of the seven Da Vincian principles, as well as many exercises and tests that will help you start thinking like the maestro.

The Artist's Way
By Julia Cameron

For all types of creative people (actors, writers, painters, musicians, etc.), especially those experiencing blocks or creative dryness, this book takes you through a 12-week program that aims to help you grow as an artist and discover creative expression without boundaries.

Live Like a Jesus Freak
By DC Talk

Written by award-winning Christian rock band DC Talk, this book talks about Christian values using contemporary language, making it easy for anyone to relate to it. Although this book was obviously made to appeal to the younger generation, the content found within its pages reaches out to everyone. Its lessons are universal and exemplified through real-life stories of modern-day "Jesus Freaks."

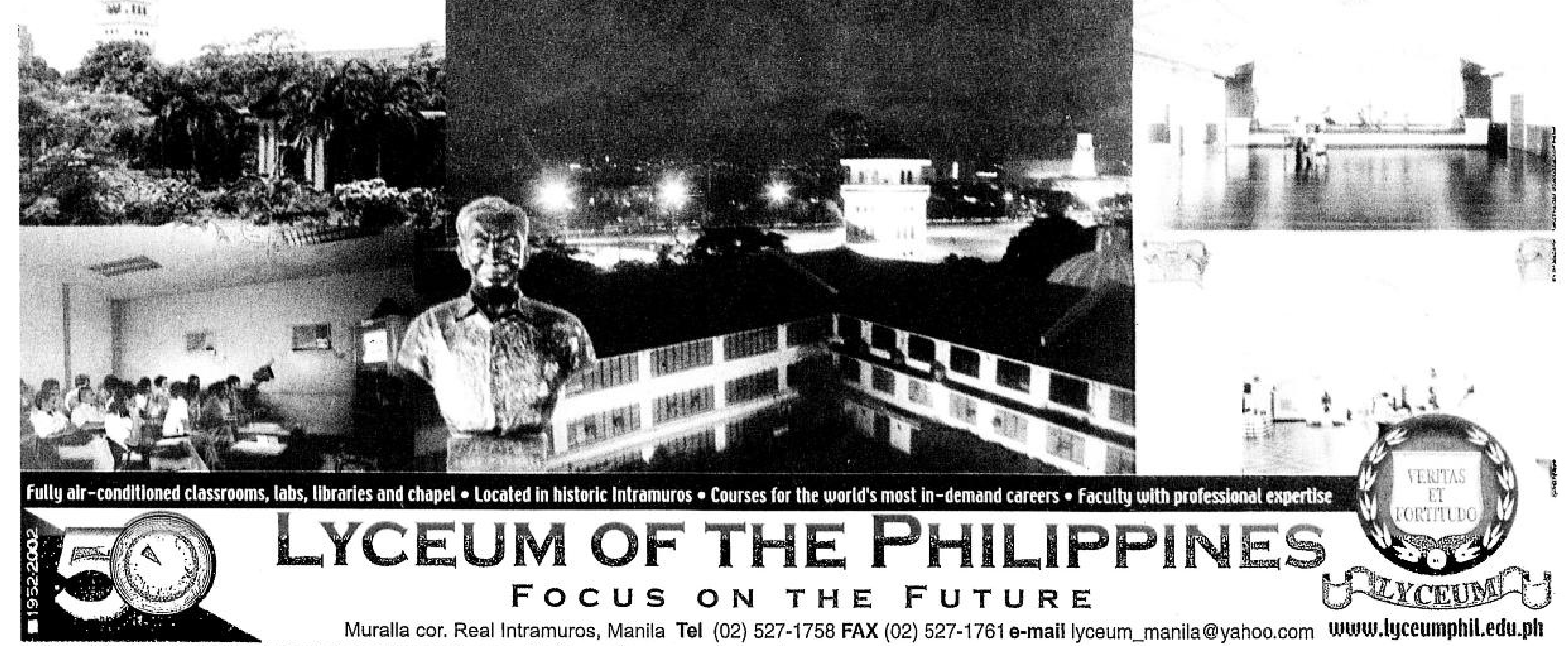
A Harmony of Angels
By Angela McGerr

This book introduces to us the different archangels, what they stand for and how they can guide us. Beautifully illustrated, "A Harmony of Angels" also offers information on related topics, such as meditation, charkas and colors. It also provides a few simple exercises to invoke your angels and other similar rituals.

Call 844-4455 or e-mail ibid@powerbooks.com.ph.

THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
ANNE RICE
Author of Blood and Gold

POWERBOOKS October author of the month, Anne Rice, is best known for her popular "Vampire Chronicles" series. The first in the series, "Interview with the Vampire," has been made into a hit movie starring Tom Cruise, Brad Pitt, Antonio Banderas and Kirsten Dunst. She has written under three names, Anne Rice, Anne Ramping and A.N. Roquelaire. Collectively, she has over 20 books in print and has a huge following all over the world. Collect her complete works available at all PowerBooks branches.



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Dreamy novel breaks grounds

A Book of Dreams: Weaver of Dreams, Teller of Tales
UP Press, 2001, 235 pp

By Ophelia A. Dimalanta
Contributor

A BOOK OF DREAMS
A NOVEL
Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo

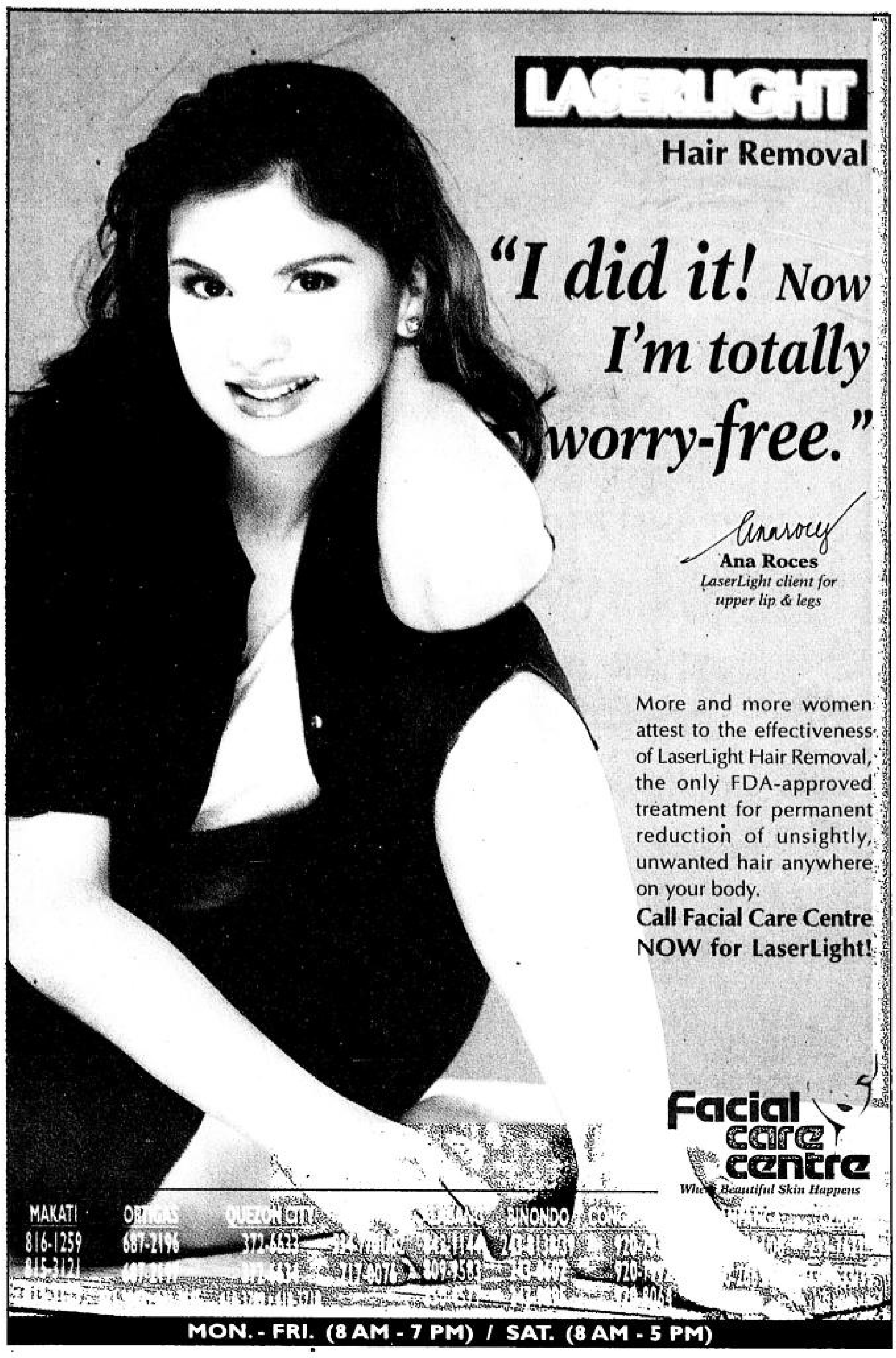
CRISTINA Pantoja Hidalgo's new book, "A Book of Dreams," is quite differently structured from the traditional novel, which is expected to have a kind of plot no matter how indiscernible, a more or less steady narrative line no matter how tenuous, and characters who weave in and out no matter how fleeting.

The new novel is structurally a pastiche of tales, dreams, sketches and entries in Angela's notebook, Angela ostensibly being the main character. All the other characters—Ruben, Ariel, Debbie, Luis, Cora—like Angela, have dreams and stories where their lives run into each other's. They meet in real life, in sketches, which are more or less moored in

DREAMY/ p.E7

REVIEW

> As teller of gemlike tales, each one exquisitely and shiningly carved, Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo is unsurpassed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